# Prehistory of Warren Michigan Research

By

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and many others

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# Prehistory of Warren Michigan

**The Petoskey Stone is the state stone of Michigan.** It was a coral that lived 350 million years ago during the Devonian age when the northern part of Michigan was covered with a sea of warm water. The scientific name is Hexagonaria percarinata; sloss (Hexagonaria meaning having six sides). The soft living tissue of the corallite was called polyp. At the center of the polyp was the food intake opening or mouth. This dark spot, or the eye of the corallite, has been filled with silt or mud that petrified after falling into the openings. Surrounding the opening were tentacles that were used for gathering food and drawing the food into the mouth. This living corallite thrived on plankton which lived in the warm sea. More on Petoskey Stones go to http://www.boynecountry.com/petoskey-stone-73/

Most of the atoms of everything in Warren and below it were created in stars billions of years ago. Warren is a tiny dot in Michigan which is a small area of the USA which is a small area of the world which is a dot in our solar system which is a tiny dot in our galaxy which is one of billions of galaxies in the Cosmos. It also exists in a micro mini speck of time because the Cosmos is billions of years old. Also we live in our dimension but science has discovered that there are over 12 dimensions.

The oldest rocks, the Precambrian rock was formed from gas which had condensed to form a molten ball and the lighter materials floated to the outside. Over billions of years this crust cooled forming continents. Meanwhile the Earth was hit with millions of frozen meteorites eventually causing the formation of oceans between the floating pieces of crust. The deepest rock under Warren which goes 30 miles down was actually once part of several continents. Columbia, Rodinia, Pangaea, Gondwana, Laurentia and others.

These pieces of crust floated on the hot surface of the globe bumping into each other, splitting apart many times until the present continents were formed. The continents are still in motion today and move a few centimeters a year, Warren has been positioned at the equator, at the poles and in between as it is now and has had climates that match those positions. The Earth's crust folded forming mountains and volcanoes to the north of the Lower Peninsula. The Penokean Mountain range was created in the upper peninsula of Michigan and was probably high as the present Rockies.

For many millions of years our area was barren rock or covered with seas, glaciers, lakes, clay, marshland and forests. There were several long periods of time when our area was covered by glaciers sometimes over a mile thick. Finally the area thawed out but rested under an expanded Lake St. Clair until about 10,000 years ago.

Rivers and lakes had pure water. Forests, prairies and damp areas covered our area which was for thousands of years, abounding in wildlife. hundreds of species of flora and fauna including dinosaurs, mastodon, mammoth, camel, sharks, giant beaver, elk, (many of these now extinct) moose, bison, otters, swarms of doves, lynxes, wildcats, beaver, muskrat, musk ox, porcupine, eagles, bears, martin, red fox, wolves, turkeys, snakes, lizards, numerous fish, deer, squirrels, Golden pheasants, rabbits, woodchuck, raccoon chipmunks, opossum, skunk, and hundreds of species of birds and insects. Dangerous to man were bears, wolves, cougars, insects and worst of all other men. Most of our native animals are extinct or have been forced out of our area by urbanization.

Fossils found in the area date back from ten thousand years to hundreds of millions of years. Although there is no human record we read the history from the evidence left in the rocks themselves going back millions of years. The topsoil under our feet took thousands of years to build up. Below that is about a hundred feet of clay which are the remains of mountains dragged here by the glaciers from the Upper Peninsula. Below that are many layers of rock formed in many ways some from millions of years of this area being covered by shallow seas and coral reefs. There are layers of salt that extend from here to New York which are the result of salt water seas drying out. If a clock face were to represent all of prehistory and history of our area only the last fraction of a second would represent the history of mankind on this planet. Mankind's tenure on this planet has been very short in comparison to many other things.

It was occupied by huge and small beasts, dinosaurs and other weird animals. Later our area was covered by glaciers with ice a mile thick. Later our area was covered again by seas and lakes. As the land rose it became cold tundra. In the last 10,000 years it became covered with forests with many types of trees.

Over 600 million years ago in the Precambrian Era the area that would become Warren was part of a shallow sea in which sediments were deposited on the sea floor from the erosion of the mountains. After the old mountains were eroded down the Killarney Mountains were formed in the Upper Peninsula. Geologists have found sedimentary rocks layered, folded and tilted, or crumpled into wavy lines, indicating that originally flat layers were pushed up into ridges and mountains. By measuring the angle and thickness of these layers of rock (strata) and studying the places where still hidden strata appear as outcrops on the surface, geologists have determined that a great mountain chain, sometimes referred to as the Killarney Mountains, extended from Minnesota, across Wisconsin and Michigan, and on eastward into Canada. This mountain range towered over the landscape for millions of years until the combined forces of earthquakes, glaciers and weather eroded them away. We are now resting on top of the ground down Killarney Mountains.

In the Cambrian period over 500 million years ago the land was uplifted many times. With each uplift the sediments were changed and folded and new igneous rocks were forced into these formations. The mountains eroded and the sediments that were carried into the shallow sea became the layer of Cambrian Sandstone located below present day Warren.

In the Ordovician period over 425 million years ago Warren remained under the ancient sea which became alternately shallower, deeper, clear and muddy which formed the layers of limestone from millions of small animal shells and dolomite and shale formed from muddy water.

Since the Michigan area was shaped like a huge saucer it has been called the Michigan Basin by geologists.

During the Silurian Period over 400 million years ago the area of Warren was covered with deep seas with clear warm waters. Great deposits of muds and corals were formed (now called the Niagara Limestones). This is about 3200 feet below Warren now. One form of coral became the state stone (the Petoskey Stone). Toward the end of this time the seas became salty as ocean water splashed into the basin and many forms of life died. Layers of salt, and anhydrite settled in the bottom of the basin which is now down about 1200 feet below Warren. Later more limestone was formed.

During the Devonian period over 325 million years ago the climate became warm and moist. Michigan became a closed pond. This was the age of fishes and corals which formed limestone. Later as a bay formed and vegetation sediments were deposited various shales were formed.

During the Mississippian period over 310 million years ago shales, limestone and gypsum were deposited.

During the Pennsylvanian period over 280 million years ago Warren was above the sea while the center of the state was a huge swamp with huge fern like plants (which later formed coal).

During the Permian period over 220 million years ago the climate of Warren became alternately hot and dry and mild. There were saber tooth tigers, horses and other animals including dinosaurs. Erosion has removed all traces of these and almost everything else up to the end of the last glacial period. For a source for the above just look at any Michigan Geography book. (Geo of MI)

About a million years ago the climate gradually became colder and the land was covered with snow. As it continued to grow colder the snow became deeper and changed to ice under the pressure of the snow layers above. Glaciers 100's of feet thick pushed, scraped and ground the surface of the land as they advanced. Warren was covered by thick ice for thousands of years.

**Warren RESTS ON TOP OF MOUNTAINS!**

There were several periods of glaciation. When the glaciers melted, deposits of glacial drift (now almost 100 feet thick) settled to the bottom of the lake which was formed at the end of the glacier. The ground we are now resting on top of is the remains of the ground down Killarney Mountains. These mountains that used to be in the upper peninsula which were themselves formed from the Penokean Mountains are now the dense clay that is under the topsoil and sand layers of Warren's gardens. You can be historically correct when you state that Warren rests on top of mountains.

Warren thawed out but rested under an expanded Lake St. Clair until about 10,000 years ago. As the lake level declined and the ground rose Warren at first was tundra with arctic plants, then low plants and shrubs, then gradually the following trees became dominant: Spruce, fir, pine, oak, chestnut walnut, sycamore butternut, basswood, elm, beech ash, oak, and pine. Some of the animals that have lived in the area of Warren since the glaciers and lake retreated are: wolf, giant beaver, white-tailed deer, musk ox, mastodon, American elk, Jefferson mammoth, muskrat, moose, short-tailed shrew, woodchuck,, eastern chipmunk red squirrel, gray squirrel Canada beaver, white-footed deer mouse, vole, raccoon, martin, red fox and many different species of birds. Mastodons were a special animal bur were extincted.

Mankind has caused threatening changes. Archaeologists tell us that man may have lived off and on in Michigan over 10,000 years ago. What is strange is that several civilizations seem to have become extinct. Some scientists claim that there has been as many of five extinctions of life on this planet. But these claims have not been proven. I mention them because they may be true and because it gives us something to think about. Mankind after all still has the specter of nuclear winter which will follow even a modest nuclear exchange

perhaps brought on by terrorists. We now have the serious disasters happening such as hurricanes and droughts caused by global warming which is now accepted scientific fact. Our planet is now suffering massive global extinctions of animal and plant species caused by pollution and human activity. The Carbon dioxide balance is being upset by industrialization and the global depletion of the planet's rain forests. Peoples in the past had a strong ozone layer to protect them. They lived practically their entire lives outside They did not have or need sun screen lotion. And they had clean air to breathe unlike now when thousands of people dying as a result of pollution. Our governments are not seeing to it that enough research is being done on drugs to stop the new drug resistant bacteria. Our enemies are mainly only ourselves and bacteria. We live on a planet which is a mere speck in the vastness of a huge uninhabitable universe, like a big spaceship and it has no life preservers. We need to take care of our space ship as it is the only one we have.

History can help us do that. History can show us where to make changes in our cultures for example to put an end to violence and needless wars thru rule of law and thru a code of conduct that must be required of every citizen of our planet-spaceship Earth. If we cannot live together in peace the nuclear weapons and biological weapons will be unleashed and we will all die. Scientists are concerned because terrorists are increasingly able to accumulate more destructive power. Nuclear weapons and materials are being stolen. History warns us that weapons usually get used. Lastly history tells us that we had better pay attention to science. Medical scientists are warning us that more medical research needs to be done to find antibiotics against super germs. With the human population soon to be 9 billion **our enemies the bacteria and viruses have a huge target population in which to develop mutations**. Super germs are increasing at an unprecedented rate and we need to develop antibiotics against them. We had better pay attention to history of epidemics. We need to be observant, informed, and prepared.

Then there is the global air and ocean warming which has now led to increased severe storms, droughts, floods, extinction of thousands of species, and much loss of human life. Science says that we are at a

tipping point where permafrost is melting releasing much more deadly green house gasses which is greatly increasing the speed of the destructive crisis. If leadership ignores science this will end all human history as humans will soon become extinct. I would have rather ended this with something like if leadership pays attention to science, humans have a great future with better longevity, better long-term health and greater happiness.

**Nuclear catastrophe in the past in Michigan?**

The oldest radiocarbon dating from Michigan archaeological digs prove that man was in the area 5350 years ago. And that may actually be a false reading. It actually be much older because a nuclear event may have happened that throws readings off. A very recent scientific discovery of a possible nuclear event (not man made) that happened several thousand years ago leading to the extinction of mankind and animals in Michigan and causing genetic mutations including the appearance of corn. Theory is that radioactive rays from a super nova explosion in space hit Michigan with radiation. (See research source Terrestrial Evidence) There have been several finds in our area such as huge Mastodon bones. Other resent scientific research shows that our planet may have had multiple mass extinctions of much of its life caused by meteor impacts. (Brit)

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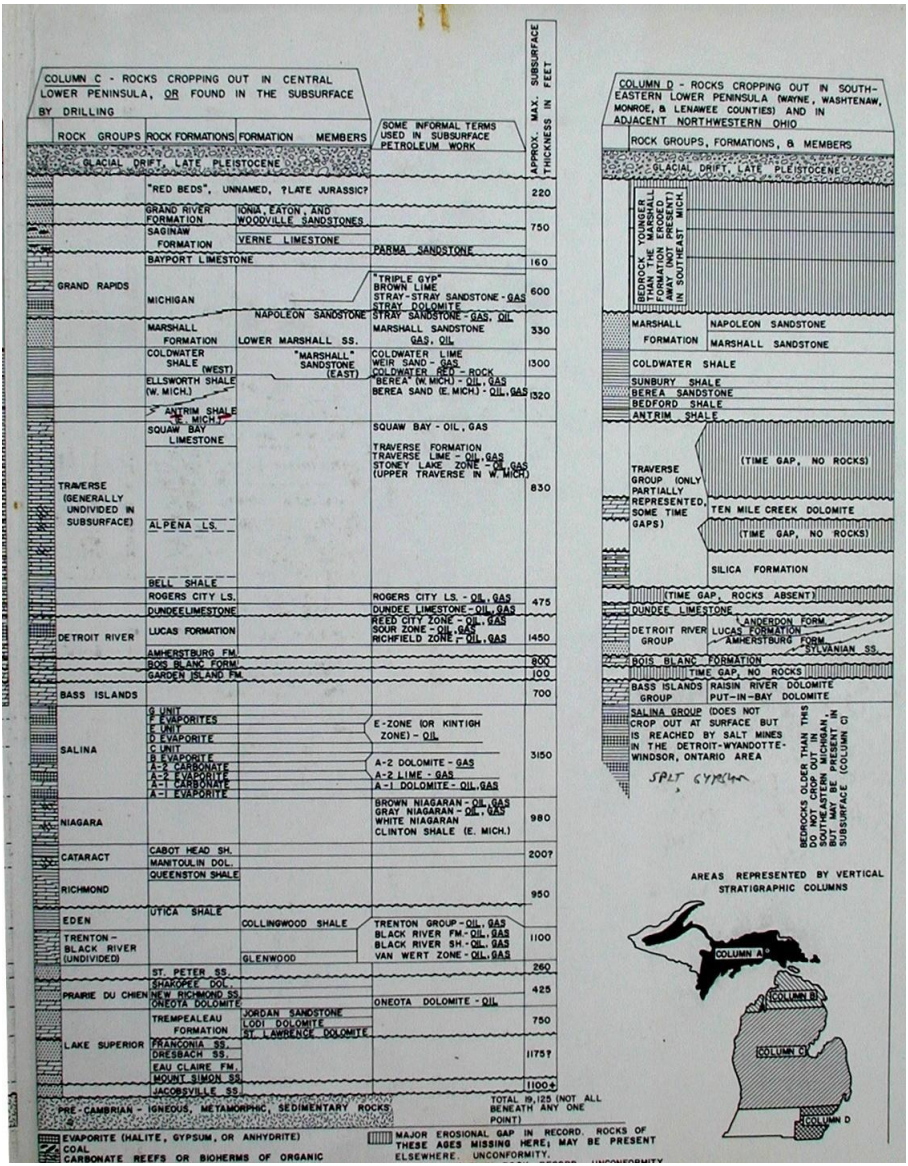
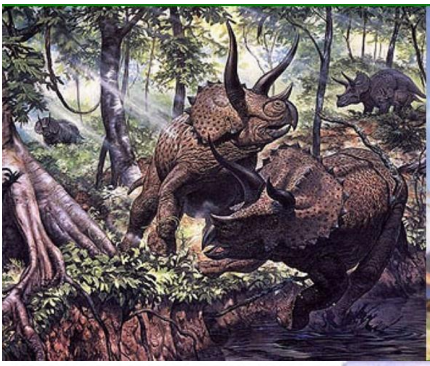
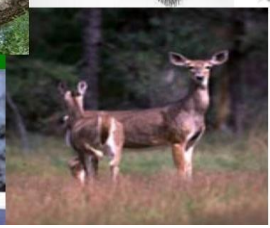



Above from Geology of Michigan



*WOLF PACK PREPARING FRESH BISON DINNER*



If a clock face were to represent all of prehistory and history of our area, only the last fraction of a second would represent the history of mankind on this planet. Time span was 600,000,000-2,000,000.000 years before present. Humans arrived in Michigan about 12,000-14,000 years before the present time. Archaeologists tell us that man lived in Michigan at least 14,000 years ago. (Lawrence E. Ziewacz 1)

We are also in an environmental crisis and tipping point of global warming because of human caused pollution and carbon in our atmosphere leading to global atmosphere, ocean and climate warming. This is causing ever more frequent severe storms, floods and droughts even here in Warren. Also further north the permafrost is melting which releases more methane and carbon into the air which increases and speeds up the warming even more. World governments have failed to stop this even though warned by scientist that it will cause human extinction. And our governments are not seeing to it that enough research is being done on drugs to stop the new drug resistant bacteria. Our enemies are mainly mankind, ourselves and bacteria. Most of the public is ignorant of these facts.

We live on a planet which is a mere speck in the vastness of a huge uninhabitable universe. It is like a big spaceship and it has no life preservers. We need to take care of our space ship as it is the only one we have. History can help us do that. History can show us where to make changes in our cultures for example to put an end to violence and needless wars thru rule of law and thru a code of conduct that must be required of every citizen of our planet-spaceship Earth. If we cannot live together in peace the nuclear weapons and biological weapons will be unleashed and we will all die. Scientists are concerned because terrorists are increasingly able to accumulate more destructive power. Nuclear weapons and materials are being stolen particularly from the old Soviet Union and now Pakistan. History warns us that weapons usually get used. Lastly history tells us that we had better pay attention to science. Medical scientists are warning us that more medical research needs to be done to find antibiotics against super germs. With the

human population soon to be 7 billion our enemies the bacteria and viruses have a huge target population in which to develop mutations.

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Early Peoples

As the glaciers melted plants returned and the animals moved further North. As the animals moved North ancient man who lived by hunting followed. At that time there was a land bridge between Asia and Alaska. It is believed that that is how man got to North America. These "Indians" are referred to by archaeologists as "Paleo-Indian People". It is believed that they were in Michigan about 12,000 years ago. They followed the herds of animals which they depended on for food and clothing. Later they were primitive hunters living in a boreal lake shore environment later with spruce forest cover. They made stone tools from chert. They also made tools from bone and antlers. We know this because large spear points have been found along with other primitive tools.

These people were followed by a "Late-Paleo-Indian Culture" who hunted deer, wolf, muskrat, black bear, turtles, birds, bison, and fish.

The Archaic Indian Culture existed in Michigan from 7000 to 2000 BC. Their culture adapted to life in a deciduous forest, but near lakes and rivers. They hunted, fished and gathered wild edible plants such as berries and nuts. They brewed vitamin rich teas from leaves of junipers, hemlock trees and other plants. There is some evidence that the climate was changing and they had to adapt. They learned to grind granite stone and polish it into tools with which they could make wooden tools, bowls and dugout canoes.

The Late Archaic Indian culture existed in Michigan approximately from 3000 BC to 2000 BC and had a much more diffuse economy. They used acorns, pines, beech, walnut, butternuts, hickory, and grapes. 'Their meat was mainly muskrats and fish. This people had contacts with others that mined copper in the Upper Peninsula, and they traded with others in what is now Mexico. What caused their sudden mysterious disappearance is unknown.

The Early Woodland period (1,000 to 300 B.C.) was a period of "firsts." According to the Michigan Historical Library who state “People planted the first gardens, made the first pottery, and built the first burial mounds.” Their rough pottery was used to cook and prepare food. So by this time they had mastered the use of fire. (most of above summarized from MHL also check any good prehistory book)

There is some notation in the historical literature about a primitive people who were much taller than other Indian tribes and had a different culture. They traded with other peoples as far south as Mexico. Little is known of them.

Around 300 B.C. to A.D. 500, called The Middle Woodland Period Hopewell peoples moved into Michigan from the south.* They built large, complex burial mounds which sometimes contained as many as 20 persons. The mounds were built over tombs in which as many as 20 people might be buried. Since they did not have shovels they carried dirt to the site in containers and piled it up. “Oftentimes, people were buried with interesting and unusual objects from far-away places. These objects included such things as copper beads from the shores of Lake

Superior, cups made of shell from the Gulf of Mexico and fresh-water pearls from the Mississippi River valley."* Some of above paraphrased from the State of Michigan historical website. Historians now feel mounds were the work of Indian peoples. (Michigan: A History of the Wolverine State Willis F Dunbar 28 )

Over 1000 mounds have been recorded in Michigan. (Hinsdale) 1,068 (Willis F Dunbar ) Mound Road was named after a mound nearby. Many other Indian peoples, buried their dead in mounds. Sometimes they made these mounds in the outline shape of animals. Some mounds had enclosures in them which were like rooms. Others were large such one at the one at the mouth of the Clinton which had a circular enclosure that contained three acres. The Indians believed in an after life and buried with their dead things they thought they would use.

Macomb County had at least 8 Indian villages, 4 burying grounds, 8 circular enclosures, and 1 rectangular enclosure. There were also at least 28 mounds. There actually were more mounds but they were already destroyed by pot hunters and farmers. Even stranger were the mysterious earth work forts and shaped earth designs with 18 inch tall inner and outer designer walls that are called "gardens" which took on geometric patterns. We still do not know what they were used for. See books by Hinsdale and Hubbard. The Hopewell used tobacco and carved beautiful stone pipes, often in the shapes of animals. (Hinsdale)

The Late Woodland Indians (A.D. 500 to 1,650) were the ones who first had a true agricultural base. They planted corn, squash, melons, and beans. They also were gatherers of berries and nuts, rice and other wild edibles and they hunted mainly hunted deer, elk and small mammals. They also were good fishers sometimes using fish nets. They tapped sugar maple trees for sap and made maple sugar.

The Indians that the Frenchmen found here were living in the new Stone Age. That is they had learned to use stone as tools such as hammers, axes and arrowheads. These Indians were in two large groups The Iroquois, and the Algonquians. The Warren area was part of the hunting-gathering grounds of the above peoples. Many times in the past this area was part of a no-man's land between warring groups. Many innocent people were needlessly slaughtered over the centuries. Many

also died of injuries, disease, lack of food and exposure in winter. (Indians Herman J. Viola see works cited)

## The Indians of Warren

Approximately 100,000 Indians or about ten percent of the total Indian population north of Mexico lived in the Great lakes region in the 1600s. (Lawrence E. Ziewacz 2). “The most numerous and influential were the Ottawa, Chippewa and Potawatomi.” They called themselves the “Three Fires.” (Michigan: A History of the Great Lakes State Lawrence E. Ziewacz 2)

The Algonquians depended on gathering, fishing, hunting and limited agriculture. They lived in wigwams which were shelters made from bent saplings covered with bark or skins. For the most part they lived further north but our area was part of their range. (Viola)

The Iroquois were more advanced than the Algonquians. They lived in long shelters made of young trees stood in two rows bent toward each other tied in the center then covered with bark. Several families lived in each shelter. They often built a stockade around their villages for protection. They gathered, hunted, fished, grew corn, pumpkin and vegetables.

Our area appears to have been mainly inhabited by the Hurons also known as the Wyandottes who were from the 1600s on at war with other Iroquois especially with those to the South. The Clinton River was originally called the Huron River because of these Indians.

They had a village where Detroit is now. The name Huron comes from the French word for boar "hure" as the Hurons kept their black hair short and bristly like a boar's hair. They hunted deer, bear, muskrats, beaver, birds and fish. When the French arrived in the early seventeenth century, the Huron were at the height of their power. The Huron population varies, but as many as thirty thousand people lived in about twenty-five villages. Michigan History magazine stated “The Huron were sedentary, living in large villages with a high degree of community Raids from the Iroquoian tribes in New York destroyed the Huron. Survivors were adopted into other tribes or became refugees.” (Perkins)

The Michigan tribes were not highly organized. “Leadership in their classless society was based on an individual's hunting or fishing skill,

physical prowess, warring abilities, or eloquence in speech. Leaders had no delegated power but maintained influence through acts of kindness, wisdom, generosity, and humility. Positions of leadership always were earned and could not be passed from generation to generation as a hereditary right." (Lawrence E. Ziewacz 4) Marriage was between clans.

The Great Lakes Indians "believed that the most important social custom was reciprocity. This was basically the idea of doing something for someone, or giving them something, with the expectation that they would do something in return." (Lawrence E. Ziewacz 6) "Reciprocity and sharing was the heart if Indian economic and social organization. (Lawrence E. Ziewacz 7) Indians felt that the land belonged to everyone. Although there was communal property that everyone shared. Even the concept of personal property was limited. It was unsatisfactory for a person to have two of something when another had none. They all lived in the wilderness and were subject to the weather and seasons. The Indians of Michigan had roles for each member of their society. Men did hunting, fishing, trading and defending. Women cooked, prepared clothing, did all of the camp duties and raised children. Children were taught respect and responsibility and were expected to learn everything about the culture. They were conditioned not to cry or make loud noises. The Indians had strong family ties because they were raised in an atmosphere of love and respect. Indians often did not punish their children at all.

Indians and Warfare

The Indians lived in a land of relative abundance yet groups often starved in the winter. And how does one explain the ongoing tribal wars? It appears that just as the grass often appears greener on the other side of the fence the hunting grounds of other tribes looked better. Then young men seem to at times have the urge to fight. Most of the Indians were young. There was very high infant mortality. The Indians for the most part were very superstitious. They were loving within their family but extremely vicious and savage in war.

The Iroquois depopulated what is now lower peninsula of Michigan about 1650 causing it to become a no-mans-land.

They slaughtered the Huron Indians who had lived in southern Michigan. This forced other tribes to move further west. Even French missionaries suffered torture and death. For example father Jean de Breboeuf a peaceful man suffered extremely horrible torture needlessly. “The Iroquois sling red-hot tomahawks over his neck and fastened a bark belt around his waist and ignited it. When the priest continued to pray, his lips and tongue were cut off. He was then scalped while still living, and after his death his heart was cut out and devoured in honor of his bravery. (Lawrence E. Ziewacz 23)

Why is it decided to be cruel and to torture fellow humans even ones who have caused no harm? This violates their own rule of reciprocity. Now most caring humans feel that “Humans must be Humane and cause no harm by actions or inaction.”

Needless Battles

There were many battles fought here. Hundreds of arrowheads and other weapons were found. Not all for hunting animals. From the stories and legends of the Indians it has been discovered that there was a lot of warfare between tribes. And this was before white man came here. Then looking at the record of how the Indians treated others and treated their captives demonstrated how cruel they could be. They often tortured captives and took slaves. Scalping was practiced before white man entered but when white men gave the Indians scalping knives and paid them to bring back scalps they excelled at this butchery. They even dug up newly killed persons and scalped them to sell the scalps for goods and fire water. Thousands were killed and scalped including women and children. When archaeologist dug up burial sites in Macomb County it became obvious a lot of people died in cruel warfare. We also know that the Indians were even cruel to child captors. See the statement by Governor Lewis Cass further along.

Purity

The Air was pure, The Water was pure and the land was pure The St Clair River was so clear one could see the bottom. The same was true of Lake St Clair and the Detroit River in the 1700 and early 1800s. The same was true of all of the rivers and streams in our area. Lake St Clair had clear blue water. (Silas Farmer p4) The well water was pure except for natural gas. The fish that were caught were wholesome. Now the

fish have poison in them and the lakes and rivers are sewers. The land in Macomb County is poisoned in several places. There are places in Macomb County with deadly chemicals under where people live and children play. One big toxic site is in East Pointe. Families are now living on these sites which are many times more toxic than safely allowable for humans to live on. Yet to show you how ignorant many present day people are they are still living there putting their children at risk because they are ignorant of current issues. They can tell you who won American idol or an Oscar but news reports of the tests on their properties they have ignored. Schofield School was built on a Detroit dump. The Detroit area had many wind and water powered mills. Some were used to pump water like in Warren and some were to grind grain. In 1830 there was a mill at Gratiot and Jefferson.

Indian Life

Indians lived in families. Most of their daily activities centered on getting food clothing and shelter. The men hunted and or farmed and the women and children prepared the food and did most of the other tasks. In Michigan hunting gathering and fishing provided them more food than farming. They were skilled at hunting and fishing. They knew which plants were good for food and which for medicine.

Marriage was for survival not love at ages 12-15 for the girls and 15-20 for the men. The relatives chose the partners. The boy's family usually gave presents to the bride's family. The young couple then moved in with relatives. This was called extended family. Everyone shared the daily work and raising of children. If the woman died her family would probably be expected to give her husband another unmarried daughter to replace her. Most Indian families were small because many babies died young. Indian children did not go to school they helped with the work thereby learning how things were done. To be recognized as a man the teenage boy usually had to prove that he could live alone in the wilderness. Family groups were often larger than the extended familiar. Families with a common ancestor were part of a clan. Members of the clan helped each other. When an Indian was, hungry s/he just went to the local wilderness for food. A pointed stick would spear fish and the bow provided venison. The wilderness provided many wild plants for food some of which were really good to

eat such as wild berries and nuts Maple sap was sweet and could be used to make maple sugar. Tea was made from sassafras and wintergreen. The oak tree provided acorns from which flour was made. Meat was preserved by drying it. Trail snacks were made from dried foods such as pemmican which consisted of dried meats grease and berries. Most North American animals are edible so if a deer wasn't found there were rabbits, squirrels possums raccoon, beaver etc. The main crops were corn, beans and squash. Wild rice grows in places. There was wild honey in the woods and maple sugar from sugar maples.

Clothing consisted of all natural materials such as animal skins which had been tanned. For men deerskin shirts leggings and breech cloths were most common and for woman simple aprons or skirts. Bird feathers were often used for decoration. The beads and wampum came mostly from trading. Wampum consists of beads of polished shells strung in strands, belts, or sashes and used Indians as money, ceremonial pledges, and ornaments.

Jesuit missionaries who came to live among the Indians reported to their superiors in France. These reports are noted in "The Jesuit Relations and Allied Documents by R. G. Thwaites (ed)." Many of the missionaries stated that "the Indians were handsome and well-proportioned, and that their health and stamina were better then that of the Europeans, and that their senses were highly developed. The liberality and hospitality of the natives also received frequent comment. Parental love was carried so far that children were not disciplined. They reported. Among the characteristics of Indian life that shocked the Jesuits were sexual immorality, promiscuity, and lewdness. The Indian's lack of cleanliness, his gluttony, and his barbarity also were noted and condemned by the Jesuits. On the other hand, the stoicism of the natives and their capacity for suffering pain without wincing often excited the admiration of the missionaries. In his natural state the Indian seemed to be capable at once of high nobility and abysmal depravity." (J. H. Kennedy, Jesuit and Savage in New France p 131 quoted by Willis F Dunbar 37)

Shelters consisted of dome shaped huts made of saplings fixed into the ground bent over and tied covered with barks, wood and skins.

(Willis F Dunbar 29) Others made large rectangular dwellings called long houses which several families shared. Their tools consisted of shaped stones, clubs, spears, bows, arrows, hooks, traps nets, chemicals and hand tools of bone or shell. Often the villages had tall stake fences around them called palisades for protection against enemies. And at night there was howling of the wolves outside the palisade.

Savages then and now

Wars occurred frequently. “War was a common occurrence in Indian life.” “The Indians were often cruel in inflicting torture upon their captives.” “Scalps were sometimes collected as trophies of war.” (Willis F Dunbar 33) Indians not only killed and tortured even child captives but they often ate them. Thousands of settlers were cruelly tortured, killed and scalped. The use of the word savage is certainly fitting for these low lifes. Savage meaning: lacking the restraints normal to civilized human beings also uncivilized fierce, ferocious criminal malicious, fierce, barbarous, wild, uncultivated, ignorant. We have a bunch of criminals today that fit this description. They injure, torture and sometimes kill innocent animals and people. Some walk our streets today. Many are found in Detroit the Murder Capital. Why is this comment here? Because it is recent history. The 12 year old son of the Center Line band director was killed for his pocket change at Cobo Hall. Who but a savage would do this?

General Cass related an experience of James May “During the American Revolutionary war, when the Indian war-parties approached Detroit, they always gave the war and death whoops, so that the inhabitants, who were acquainted with their customs, knew the number of scalps they had brought and of prisoners they had taken...Soon after I arrived in Detroit, the great war party which had captured Ruddle's Station in Kentucky, returned from that expedition. Hearing the usual signals of success, I walked out of town and soon met the party. The squaws and young Indians had ranged themselves on the side of the road, with sticks and clubs, and were whipping the prisoners with great severity. Among these were two young girls, thirteen or fourteen years old who escaped from the party and ran for protection to me and to a naval officer. I found the naval officer, who was with me the preceding day, already there.” Later both he and the naval officer were severely

reprimanded for helping the poor children. Those poor children had probably witnessed their parents being killed and scalped and were cruelly and severely being whipped and beaten just because they were captives. (Farmer p262) If one has any doubt about the reason Indians were referred to as savages this should make it very clear. Even the squaws and Indian children were participating in this totally unnecessary cruelty.

"William McVey related the following observation to Judge Witherell which occurred Sept 15, 1814. "David and William Burbank and myself were sitting down [near the fort] Mr. McMillan and Archy passed us. We spoke to them about some apples they were eating. They passed on towards some cows that were feeding" nearby ...When they approached within gunshot of some bushes we saw three of four guns fired, and Mr. McMillan fall. The Indians instantly dashed upon him and took off his scalp. Archy, on seeing that his father was killed, turned and ran towards us with all the speed that his little legs could supply. A savage on horseback pursued him...The savage sprang from his horse, seized the boy and dragged him off to the woods," (farmer 285)

"After the massacre at the Raisin, the few who were judged able to march were taken to Malden and Detroit, but when any of them gave out they were tomahawked without mercy. Those who could scarcely walk on account of wounded and bleeding feet were compelled to dance on the frozen ground for the amusement of the savages." (Farmer 280)

**Savage Behavior from Many Groups**

**American Scalps were paraded daily thru Detroit. In 1790 scalps of American soldiers were paraded daily thru the streets of Detroit accompanied by the demoniac scalp-yells of the warriors who had taken them.** (Farmer p265)

The word savages also includes the French, British, Germans, Spanish, Dutch and Americans who participated in cruel and savage acts against peaceful men women and children back then and by others even in the 21st century. Truthfully, historically this is the human story, wars, killing, cruelty, on and on. This is why mankind needs a code of conduct agreed on universally and enforced universally.

In the late 1500's five tribes the Cayuga, Onondaga, Oneida, Mohawk and Seneca formed the Iroquois nation under Chief Hiawatha. Indians believed in spirits. Complicated ceremonies were common. They also wore ugly masks during disease curing rituals. (Viola and National Geographic)

Bloody Invasions

The Hurons told many tales of invasions by tribes from the North such as the Chippewas, Ottawas, and Pottawatomies. Many of them were slaughtered by the other Iroquois during the cruel Indian wars from 1600-1820. The French set the Algonquians and Hurons against the English and Iroquois. The English set the Iroquois against the French, Americans and Hurons. The French explorer Champlain around 1612 and a company of Frenchmen while cultivating friendship with Algonquin tribes and the Huron Indians who lived in the vicinity of Quebec accompanied these Indians on a war party against their dreaded enemies the Iroquois. "The fire arms used by the French in the ensuing struggle threw the Iroquois into panic-stricken flight and incurred their lasting enmity. (Willis F Dunbar 49) This resulted in the Iroquois fighting the French and their Indian allies severely for the next 200 years.

The Iroquois later slaughtered the Hurons and the few survivors fled Michigan. Then around 1650 the Iroquois attacked other tribes. "Lower Michigan was almost entirely depopulated. (Willis F Dunbar 53) "The Lower Peninsula of Michigan continued for many years to be a kind of no man's land between the fierce Iroquois warriors of the East and the tribes that inhabited what is now Wisconsin and Upper Michigan. (Willis F Dunbar 64) About 1689 St Lawrence settlements were repeatedly raided, "and on one of these forays the bloodthirsty Iroquois slaughtered two hundred people in the little village of La Chine." (Willis F Dunbar 77)

The French came to Detroit and built a fort in 1701. Not very long after that is when the killings accelerated. They bought scalps. They offered the Indian things he could not get except from them. Scalping knives, tomahawks, guns, good blankets, metal pots, fire water (whiskey). This was in trade for furs including human fur (scalps). As a result eventually thousands were savagely murdered.

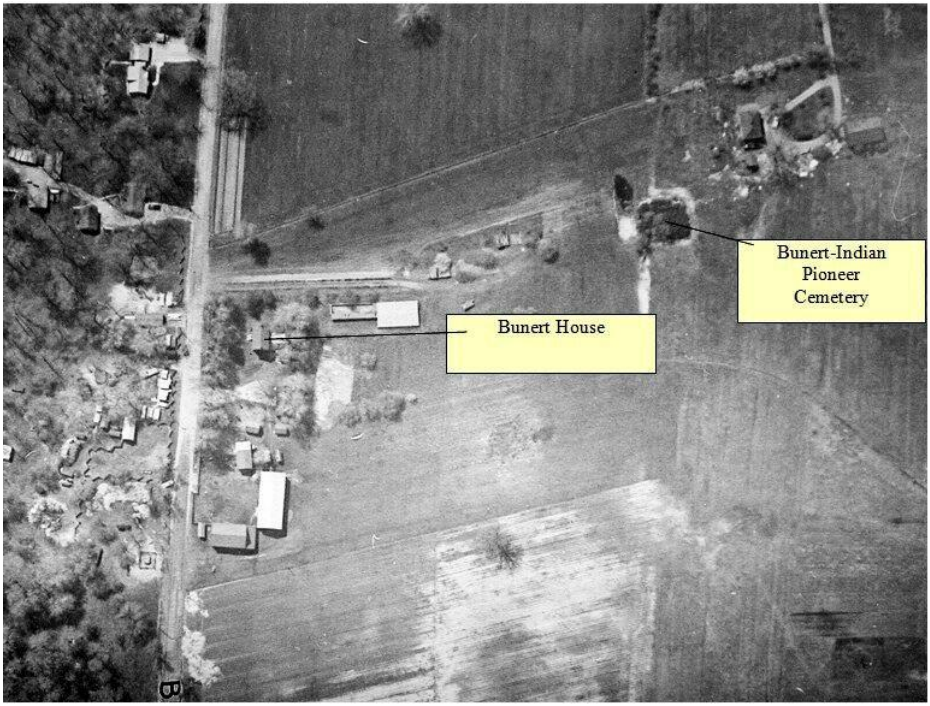
The Dutch also furnished muskets and the English furnished scalping knives, guns and bought scalps in SW Michigan. Innocent settlers were killed as well as neutral Indians.

The area of Warren was covered with thick forest of Oak, Beech, Maple, Black Walnut, Pine and other trees. There were also semi damp areas and marshy areas. Bear Creek and Red Run had pure water then. However it may have been named Red Run because occasions of the blood in the water resulting from children and families who lived on the banks of this creek being needlessly butchered by killers. This happened because there was no “Rule of Law”, rather it was rule of brute force.

If all of the above time was on a regular clock face, the last fraction of the last second would be when mankind appeared in Michigan several thousand years ago.

I rediscovered a mound while working on hiking merit badge as a scout. It was pyramid shaped. The top was round. Later this site was explored and radiocarbon dating of hearth elements determined the site to be a 11,000-year-old Paleo-Indian settlement. Early farmers got pots from these mounds as they leveled them.

The last surviving Indian mound in Warren was on the two Bunert family farms North of Martin and West of Bunert. It was about 18 foot high and was known as the island that later the kids slid down in winter and coasted on their bikes and wagons in warm weather. This gradually wore it down to around to under 18 inches by the late 1960s. My friend Fred Weier told me that every once in awhile someone would bring him a bone that had been uncovered.




Above is Bunert Road at left side. The top of the foto is South. the right wide is West. The location is just south of Martin Road. The Bunert red farm house is labeled as is the Bidell Green Hessel Bunert Indian Pioneer Cemetery. The C Bunert farm is located at the top right and the A Bunert farm at the left middle. The Dark square was the cemetery covered mostly in Lilac bushes. the mound was reportedly around eighteen feet high originally and was surrounded by packed down dirt from vehicles. It had its own access dirt single lane path-road directly to Martin.

My friend Fred Weier who still farmed on the Bunert farm until its being sold off, was grandson of Ida Bunert who was the daughter of the original settler. Fred told me the school district took the family land including the -Bidel Green Hessell-Bunert-Indian-Pioneer Cemetery (which wason undertakers register of Michigan Cemeteries) to build Briarwood school near it. By the 1950s the mound had been reduced to under10 foot height. It was a shrub covered 30-50 foot in diameter,

sandy mound that looked like an island that kids for many years climbed up with their bikes wagons, and sleds to coast down wearing the sandy hill down. Eventually it was reduced to a low mound (no one has been found to give me a report of its final height) So it must no longer have looked like an Indian mound. The Bunert family had identified it as a cemetery and had buried at least two adults next to it. These were later moved to Clinton Grove cemetery.

Ida Weier told the school officials when they took over her property that it was a pioneer and Indian cemetery. They told her she was crazy. But after several findings of bones by the children having dug them up in the sand and after receivers of fill dirt the school district had hauled off, reported human remains. The kids had also started bringing in human remains from it for show and tell. Surprise! Imagine the teachers being confronted with a human skull for show in tell.

This was reported to the school authorities and William Duross the closest undertaker was hired. He exhumed 40 human remains which were reburied in Clinton Grove in 3 cement vaults. Historical researcher professor Wesley Arnold did much research on this and personally went there and that grave has no marker.

Fred told me that his grandma said that Indians would come there, stay awhile and leave when the sun was in a certain place and he told me of a pioneer who carried his dead child there. I have done research on this cemetery. It may have been used also for many child burials because 2-3 times as many children died for each adult. There were a lot of childhood diseases resulting in deaths before 1930. Also there were no other local cemeteries and the pioneers did not have money to buy a plot if there was a cemetery. St Clement did not start until 1854 and that was just for Catholics. There were no funeral homes and the dead were buried the same day they died or the next day as the corpse remained in the family home until buried. There were also no hearses here in Warren in early years.

There was a report of an Indian woman aberration and other sightings by unsuspecting home buyers who were not told that part of their property may have been a graveyard.

As a result pioneer remains along with the accompanying fill dirt were scattered far and wide. And that is what happened to our oldest cemetery.

Settlers usually buried their dead in not so deep graves because they did not have proper tools all was done by hand, and because of bad weather and because everything was done by family who may also have also been sick or dying. Many were buried not far from where they died on their farm, without a casket or stone marker. Also there were no local morticians, no funeral homes no casket makers. And the body had to remain in the home and buried the same or next day because of odors and spread of disease. I have farmers diaries proving this. After 1855 most of the dead were buried in one of three cemeteries: The Bunert Indian Pioneer Cemetery, The Warren Union Cemetery or the St Clement Cemetery. After 1880 some were buried at Mt Olivet if the farmers had the money if not usually at Warren Union where one could bury in the back privately without cost in the rural area behind weed cover unnoticed. Researchers have concluded that because of the possibility of no cost burial and because there were often twice as many child deaths than adults because of the many childhood diseases and poor medical care that there are at least hundreds of children buried at Warren Union Cemetery. Hundreds have no existing marker now. Also see research by professor Wesley E Arnold on Warren Union Cemetery.

There were no known grave stone engravers locally. Many people were buried without a casket or marker. St Clement dates from 1850. but both appear to be preceded by the Bunert Indian Pioneer Cemetery. Warren Union cemetery earliest could be early 1830s. In Warren Township the oldest **recorded** cemetery burials were at the Warren Union Cemetery, followed by the St Clement Cemetery. But between the A Bunert Farmhouse and the C Bunert Farmhouse Just N of Martin Road and West of Bunert Road, was an Indian mound and 30-50 feet in diameter. It was most likely an Indian burial mound but this is uncertain which was missed in Hinsdale's research probably because it was so low.

This mound existed prior to the settlement of their farm in 1849. It had become overgrown with lilacs, weeds and shrubs so much that it was not particularly recognizable as an Indian mound and was missed on the early surveys. The settlers certainly were not in the habit of building mounds. Historian Wesley Arnold interviewed others who stated that the mound was by the time they were biking and sledding was at least ten feet high. One man told me that as a boy he and other

kids had to climb up this mountain of sorts which appeared to be like an island. He said that kids often rode down it on bikes and sleds and that once in awhile they would uncover a bone. It was sandy it had been worn down considerably in the many years since the Indians made it. Since it was covered with small trees and shrubs and had bare spots, it was obviously not noticed in the mounds survey done by Hinsdale and others.

The family reported that Indians came around often in the early days. They would read the sun like a clock and would disappear when the sun reached a certain angle. Indian artifacts have been found in the area. Local legends also give credence to the Indian mound theory. This area is generally flat and there is no logical geological explanation for a sand mound given the flatness of the surrounding area. Also considering that there was at least evidence of forty human remains removed from this site and that no archeologist was called in to evaluate the site so that there may have been other evidence that was certainly overlooked. The family reported that other families sometimes brought relatives there for burial. The one Bunert daughter married a Weier so there is a name shift. I talked with one of the older Weiers and was told that their grand parents told them of a man who carried his dead baby for several miles to have it buried there as it was the only cemetery he knew about. Around this landmark early settlers from several families buried their dead. They probably did not know or care if it was an Indian mound or not. Whether or not it was will probably remain unknown as the evidence was destroyed and removed. Early farmers often raided Indian mounds to get pots. There was a dirt path- road that led from Martin road directly to this cemetery. I have it on an aerial foto and showing the mound in the 1960s. I shall call it the Bunert-Indian Pioneer Cemetery for shortness but it was supposedly registered on the State of Michigan registry as the Bidell, Green, Hessel, Indian Pioneer Cemetery. I saw a 8 mm movie in about 1970 showing three burial vaults in which remains were being placed to be buried at Clinton Grove. It is now located on the southern half of the Briarwood school property. I spoke with the undertaker who performed the last removals. I found newspaper articles. And weirdly also found reports of ghost sightings believe it or not.

I interviewed homeowners who reported that their kids and animals

sometimes noticed apparitions and sometimes an Indian woman. These were original homeowners whose back yards were built over the graves. These homeowners were not told that their property was part of a burial ground.
By the 1960s it was overgrown with Lilac shrubs that waved in the breeze. The Lilacs were planted by other families to mark the burial places but had become overgrown over the years. The family was forced by economic reasons to sell the property. The school district would have taken the property anyway as they wanted to build a school there. It was transferred about 1966. Mrs. Ida Weier told the school district that it was a burial ground and wanted all remains to be treated in a “Christian manner”. Bunert family burials were removed and reinterred at the Clinton Grove Cemetery in Mt Clemens. There were no other stone markers and all of the wood markers had rotted away and the little stone pebble markers were displaced so it was not particularly recognizable as a burial ground. But she also warned the principal that it was a burial ground. They thought she was crazy. But they did not realize they were taking to the daughter of a real pioneer who saw the Indians. During construction a skulls and other human bones were discovered. (Per Tri City Progress 4 14-1967) In May of 1969 children playing in the school playground discovered more human remains. Imagine the look of shock on the teachers face when they brought the remains into the classroom. Later the principal went over to Ida Weiers house and wanted to question her about the remains. She reminded him that he had branded her a crazy lady for even suggesting that it was a burial ground. At least one contractor dug a load of dirt for fill dirt and dropped it off on someone’s property. The homeowner receiving the fill dirt found human remains and called the police who contacted the contractor. Imagine asking for fill dirt and getting human remains dropped off in your driveway. Wow was he in trouble. It wasn’t very long when that kids were also showing off human remains from the mound. That finally got the officials attention. The school district wanted everything hushed up so no archeologists were called in and in fact it was them who hired a funeral director. The school certainly did not anyone to discover that this was anything other than a single family burial plot. But human remains **of at least 40 humans** were removed from what was left of the mound after much of it had been hauled away

and used as fill dirt around Macomb County.

William DuRoss the funeral director mentioned that possibily Theuts, Greens, Hessels, and perhaps Schoenhers were buried there. So it was for sure a pioneer cemetery. Whether or not it was also the remains of an Indian burial ground had not been determined by scientific investigation and will never be never known as the evidence has been removed and scattered. And even though a few bones were removed the balance of the remains of those pioneer families remain underground. This historian does not believe in ghosts but must report many of sightings over the years by homeowners adjacent to the Briarwood School property. Several families and even children have reported sightings and strange happenings there. As a historian I am honor bound to tell the truth. Strange. This historian feels that a plaque should be erected at least at the Sjouth end of the parking lot to mark this as at least a pioneer cemetery and in memorial to the dead.

After much research including consulting maps of that time and interviewing many people it appears that the location is as above in regard to present buildings. The cemetery also appears to have extended into the back yards of houses on West side of Amanda Dr possibly from 28245-28201. It is also possible that the cemetery could have extended into the land onto which the houses were actually built. The builder did not inform the buyers of the houses that their property was on a cemetery . If someone wants more accurate measurements simply compare old aerial maps with newer ones. The problem of course is how extensive was this cemetery and where were burials made prior to the earliest aerial maps. When I interviewed now deceased family members they reported that Indians often came around to visit the cemetery. This leads to speculation but not proof that it may have been also an Indian burial ground. The alleged unproven sighting by more than one old resident of an Indian woman apparition adds more mystery to this site. Although this historian does not believe in ghosts reports of sightings by children and supported by animal behavior deepen the mystery further.

American Indians spoke hundreds of different languages. There were countless tribes over time, most of which are unknown.. This area was a hunting ground and home for thousands of years, long before our direct ancestors came over on boats from Europe. The Indians did not

have written laws. Tribes had traditions they sometimes followed but varied from them at the whim of the ruling chief or warrior. Most of the time they were kind. Some prepared for war. Some practiced war. They had to in order to survive against other war-like people. They practiced slavery and extreme cruelty at times including torture. On the other hand they often lived in harmony with others and with nature. The Indians have interesting traditions. They got to know nature by living in it and using it. They got to know the local plants and what they were good for. Some like cattails were good for many things such as food, mats, baskets, bedding, baby diapers, and fire starters. These peoples did not write or read. They kept their history as oral traditions in the form of stories told at campfires. Their dances tell stories. Most of our ancestors also were in tribes and lived like the Indians did. There are interesting books about their way of life in the Library. You can still visit a real Indian pow-wow, see their dances and talk to real Indians. For more information see South Eastern Michigan Indians 26641 Lawrence Street Center Line, Michigan 48015 Phone: (810) 756-1350 E-mail: semii@mail.com POW WOWS are held almost year round.

What did we learn from the Indians?
First we learned from them where things were like the lakes, streams and other resources. Then we learned the use of corn, potatoes, tobacco, squash, beans, pumpkins, melons, maple sap, maple sugar, tobacco and uses for many other native plants. Corn was unknown to Europeans and was a lifesaver food crop as wheat did not do well until after the ground had been tilled several times. We learned how to make birch bark canoes, shelters, hunting and fishing techniques and that people can live off of the land without modern conveniences. We learned that primitive man can be very intelligent very kind, or very cruel. They could also do things we couldn't like make fires by twirling a stick and going for days on next to no food. The Indians also introduced Europeans to their sacred plant tobacco.

What did the Indians learn from the White Man?
They learned to use European tools, clothes and culture. They learned that the white man would take over their land by moving in, making

treaties with promises then breaking those promises. The Indians were primitive people with no concept of land ownership. Michigan belonged to everyone and each was to take from it only what they needed. The land belonged to all and was for the use of all. Before the white man came all tribes were virtually self-reliant. (Willis F Dunbar 31) The Indians were promised lands by sacred treaty then the white man would come in with armies and modern weapons and kill or remove the Indians from the land that was already by law given to the Indians. And Europeans brought diseases such as measles, smallpox and tuberculosis to which the Indians had no resistance at all, So thousands died

The last Indians for the most part adopted and used European items. They liked metal tools because they were more efficient. Metal pots were superior than earthen pots. Guns were more effective for hunting and killing enemies. Non Indian clothing and blankets were better and more comfortable. The Indians adopted white man's items and tools and within a generation many seemed to forget how to be self sufficient. By the mid 1700s Michigan Indians were almost dependent upon Europeans trade goods. (Lawrence E. Ziewacz 8) By the 1700s most Indian bands were more driven to get furs than to hunt or raise crops for their own families. The introduction of whiskey to Indian culture resulted in many Indians selling personal and family possessions and neglecting getting food for themselves and their families. That and with the white-induced diseases accounted for gradual Indian population decline to around 8,000 by 1900. (Lawrence E. Ziewacz 9) Of course some of this was due to warfare. The Indians learned that the white man was not looking out for there welfare rather was cheating them in every way possible. “The worse curse was the white-man's fire-water. The Indians were utterly unable to control their desire for rum, brandy, or whiskey once they had had a taste of it, and untold numbers were completely debauched by its use. The Indians became pawns in the white-man's wars.” (Willis F Dunbar 36) And the Indians were denied both moral and legal justice. (Lawrence E. Ziewacz 11)

To the early pioneers the Indians were mostly deadly enemy. Some Indians such as the Delawares were Christians and were very friendly and kind. Others like the roving bands of paid scalpers hired by the

English would butcher an entire family just for the scalps. There was much needless violence practiced by the English, French, American settlers and Indians. We must learn that there are better ways to settle disputes than brute force.

## Early Europeans in the area?

We simply have no records of the Vikings coming here although they preceded Columbus to America. Leif Ericson (c. 970 – c. 1020) was a Norse explorer who is regarded as the first European to land in North America (excluding Greenland), nearly five hundred years before Christopher Columbus. According to the Sagas of Icelanders, he established a Norse settlement at Vinland, Newfoundland and Labrador, Canada. It is believed that Leif was born in Iceland, the son of Erik Thorvaldsson known as Erik the Red. (Wikipedia)

An account published in Paris in 1632 indicates that Samuel de Champlain, founder of Canada sent Etienne Brule west from Georgian Bay on lake Huron. In 1634 Jean Nicolet was sent by Champlain to explore down into Lake Michigan. Following this fur traders and adventurers explored the Michigan region. They made friends with the Indians by giving them gifts. They traveled far and wide in Michigan and may have even explored the Huron River (later became the Clinton). But they did not publish their notes if they even took any because this was secret state business. This was New France and their job was to obtain furs. It is almost certain that Cadillac was not the first European in the area but no records have come to light with any actual names. What is important is that they respected the Indians and found a way to trade with them peacefully. They learned the languages and often married into the culture.

The Indians were living in the stone age which required intensive laborious work to hunt and just live. The Indians began acquiring metal tools, clothes, blankets and learning the ways of the Europeans. The Indians realized that a metal knife required a lot less work to use than a stone one. Soon the Indians were traded guns which were much more effective for hunting and against enemies. The Indians also learned to beg, bargain and trade. They were told that settlers would take their lands and force them out. The Indians discovered this was true from

other tribes further east who had been displaced. So who the actual first foreigners were doesn't matter. The Europeans who counted were the French who had great influence on the Indians and their culture. The French were there to make money and to save souls. Several French missionaries were sent to Michigan. French explorers explored Michigan to an extent that when La Salle left Michigan for the last time in 1683 the French were well acquainted with most of Michigan. (Willis F Dunbar 71)

Our area was abounding in wildlife.

Our area was also home to some ancient animals such as the American mastodon, saber toothed cats, short legged rhinoceros, long horned bison, giant ground sloth, and an early camel all millions of years ago. On July 24, 1701, Antoine De La Mothe Cadillac and his command of about one hundred men, which included his nine-year-old son Antoine, landed at the foot of a thirty-foot cliff along the Detroit River. Cadillac built here Fort Pontchartrain du De Troit (the straits). This later became the city of Detroit. Madame Cadillac, several months later, traveled one thousand miles by canoe to join her husband, becoming the first European woman in Michigan. Cadillac left Detroit in 1710. The Michigan Historical library states that his settlement had become home to several thousand Native Americans, but only a handful of French Canadians.

What was the area like in 1701? What did Cadillac find?

In 1701 Cadillac wrote that there were forests of full grown trees or walnut, white oak, red oak, ash, pine, whitewood, cottonwood, straight as arrows with no knots and without branches except at the very top. ”Under these broad walks one sees hundreds of timid deer and faun, also the squirrel bounding in his eagerness to collect the apples and plums with which the earth is covered. Here the cautious turkey calls and conducts her numerous brood to gather the grapes.” Golden pheasants, the quail, partridge, woodcock, and numerous doves swarm in the woods and in the country which is dotted with thickets.” “The fish here are nourished and bathed by living water of crystal clearness and their great abundance renders them none the less delicious.” He

writes of the prodigious courageous Eagle, “Swans are so numerous that one would take for lilies the reeds in which they are crowded together. Luxuriant grass which fatten woolly buffaloes of magnificent size. Silas Farmer also states that other early accounts tell of elk, moose, wolves, bears, rabbits, otters, lynxes, wildcats, beavers, musk-rats, meadow larks, bobolinks, robins, and humming birds. “so numerous and large, indeed, were the wild Bisons, that the making of garments from their wool was seriously considered.” In 1824 myriads of wild pigeons made their roosts in the forests of the country. They were so numerous that hundreds could easily be killed with a walking stick. (Silas Farmer p11)

Michigan is indeed a water wonder land with the most fresh water in the world.

## French Rule The arrival of the Europeans

In the 1600’s Europeans were venturing into Michigan. At first most were from France but also from other countries. They discovered a wilderness covered with huge trees, white pines over five feet in diameter at the base and 200 feet tall, abundant wildlife such as beaver, lakes and streams with fish. 1600-1668 French missionaries and fur traders ventured into upper Michigan especially the area of Sault Ste Marie. In 1668, the legendary Jesuit missionary and explorer Fr. Jacques Marquette named this settlement Sault Ste. Marie, the first “city” in the Great Lakes region. According to Michigan History magazine (http://www.michiganhistorymagazine.com/ kids/pdfs/guide1.pdf) When the French arrived in the upper Great Lakes in the mid-seventeenth century, they discovered nine Indian tribes that totaled an estimated 100,000 people. The largest was the Huron, which lived in the region between Lakes Erie, Ontario and Huron. Tribes living in present-day Michigan included the Ojibway, the Odawa and the Potawatomi. Other tribes living in the area included the Menominee, the Sac (also Sauk), the Fox, the Winnabago and the Miami.” They shared three beliefs: 1) Spirits were more powerful than men; 2) Nature—the land, animals and plants—belonged to everyone; and 3) No one had the right to run another person’s life. Everyone

living in an Indian village worked." "Michigan Indians were not as warlike as other Native Americans. When they did fight, it was because another group had moved too close to their territory. They also fought to avenge a wrong done to one of them by someone from another village or tribe." The French exploited the area for furs. The French gave the Indians beads, blankets, tomahawks, copper kettles, and guns. (Silas Farmer 227)

The French did everything they could to settle Canada. Under Jean Talon the "Great Intendant" which was the title for the manager of the area, France emptied its prisons, poor houses and orphanages of people and sent them to Canada. They encouraged the new settlers to marry and have large families. Talon also introduced new crops such as flax and hemp and imported quality livestock. (Lawrence E. Ziewacz 25)

In 1689 the Iroquois attacked the village of La Chine and massacred 200 French villagers. The King of France sent in troops but European troops were unskilled in fighting Indians. Then the French sent voyagers and Indians to attack English settlements. In one attack against English settlers at Schenectady sixty residents perished. One of the residents who escaped stated later "the cruelties committed at said place no person can write not tongue express; ye women big with child ripped up and ye children alive thrown into ye flames, and their heads dashed in pieces against doors and windows." (Lawrence E. Ziewacz 35) These needless cruel attacks would spread later to settlers in Michigan, Ohio and Indiana and further south.

Cadillac had settled in in Detroit in 1701. He rented land to Frenchmen for money. He turned the whole area into a wealth building machine for himself. He encouraged Indians to camp near the fort and trade there. During trading season as many as 5,000 Indians and hundreds of coureurs de bois met in Detoit. Cadillac made a small fortune from this fur trade. (Willis F Dunbar 80) Because the Jesuits were trying to Christianize the Indians they were not in favor of killing, scalping and moral debauchery caused by fire water. To celebrate an Ottawa and Potawatomi foray into the Saginaw region against Iroquois hunters,

which netted thirty scalps and as many prisoners, Cadillac furnished the victorious Indians, on their return, with enough brandy so that two hundred of them staged an all-night orgy. (Willis F Dunbar 80) Cadillac commanded Detroit for nine years. He made many enemies and extracted the last penny possible from the settlers. Even his boss Count Pontchartrain reprimanded him and told him that he was too greedy. (Willis F Dunbar 85) Cadillac had hoped to make a permanent settlement that would grow in population thru intermarriage with Indians. He was convinced that this "would assure Indian loyalty and friendship as well." (Lawrence E. Ziewacz 37) He might have succeeded if he weren't so greedy and obnoxious which got him transferred to Mobile in 1710.

In 1706 a priest was shot by an Ottawa Indian. The population of Detroit remained fairly small. In 1708 it only has 63 permanent residents ,200 acres in cultivation.

It had only a dozen assorted cattle and a "single forlorn horse." (Lawrence E. Ziewacz 38) The French settlers were very laid back and young French men preferred the quick profits of the fur trade to hard toil of humble farmers. (Lawrence E. Ziewacz 38) The big picture of course was that the French preferred to preserve the wilderness for the fur trade rather than make big settlements. So by 1750 the French even though they claimed all of Canada only had about 50,000 population compared to the English holdings to the south east with a population of 1.5 million. (Lawrence E. Ziewacz 39)

French Commandants
1701 – 1704 M Antione de la Mothe Cadillac
1704 - 1706 Sieur Alphonse de Tonty
1706, January to August Sieur de Bourgmont
1706 august to summer of 1711 M Antoine de la Mothe Cadillac
1711 to June 1712 M Joseph Guyon du Buisson
1712 June to 1714 Francois Daupin, Sieur de la Forest
1714 Nov 12 to 1717 Lieutenant Jacques Chas Sabrevois
1717 M Louis de la Poste, Sieur de Louvigny

1717 July 3 to 1720 M Henri Tonty, younger brother of Alphonse
1720 M Charles Joseph, Sieur de Noyelle
1720 to November 10, 1727 (when he died) Sieur Alphonse de Tony
1727 December 19 to M le Chevalier de Lepermouche
1728 M Jean Baptiste Deschaillons de St Ours
1728 M Charles Joseph, Sieur de Noyelle
1728 to June 10, 1734 M de Boishebert
1734 June 10 to Hugues Jacques Pean Sieur de Livandiere
1734-1738 Lieutenant Jacques Charles Sabrevois
1738-1741 M Charles Joseph Sieur de Noyelle
1741, July 28, to 1742, Pierre Poyen de Noyan
1742-1743 Pierre de Celeron, Sieur de Blainville
1743-1747 M Joseph Lemoyne, Chevalier de Longueuil
1749- Lieutenant Jacques Charles Sabrevois
1751, February 15, to March 19, 1754, Pierre de Celeron, Sieur de Blainville
1754 to May 25, 1758 M Jacques d'Anon, sieur de Muy. Died at Detroit
1758 – 1760 Captain Francois Marie Picote de Bellestre (Silas Farmer 227)

The Fur Trade

Since Europe was largely depleted of fur bearing animals there was a big demand for furs in Europe. The pelts that were shipped to Europe included Beaver, bear, elk, deer, martin, raccoon, mink, muskrat, opossum, lynx, wolf, and fox. (Willis F Dunbar 90) The French fur traders were adventurous young men who lived among the Indians and took Indian wives. It is estimated that there were at least 800 of them. Others were voyageurs who were colorful characters who paddled hundreds of miles up swift streams, carrying canoes on their backs singing as they went. (Willis F Dunbar 92) They traded bright-colored beads, cloth, shawls, handkerchiefs, ribbons, sleigh bells, knives, Jew’s harps, shot, powder, tobacco, blankets, and brandy. They often cheated the Indians. (Willis F Dunbar 92) They ate corn boiled in strong lye, the hulls removed, and the kernels washed and dried and bear or other meat and pork or fat. (Willis F Dunbar 92)

By 1710 nearly 6000 Indians from many tribes were visiting near the area of the Fort at Detroit trying to get the French to give them things. This meant that they were hunting in Warren. In the past the French had given lots of gifts to the Indians. But the King of France had ordered an end to buying furs and an end to the giving of gifts. This angered the Indians and led to the murders of many French fur traders. Soon the tribes were fighting amongst themselves for territory. In 1712 allied Indians massacred about 1000 Fox Indians.

1745 Parties You don't want to go to this party!

Land of Beauty and Peace turned into nightmare land of scalpers
Into this wonderful land of beauty and peace, again as in countless times before, came strangers and killed the peaceful settlers. Men, women and children were needlessly massacred. Why?

Silas points out that as early as 1745 the French outfitted war excursion parties. These killed scalped, tortured any settler or anyone that they did not like. They also took many women and children as slaves.

**I quote Silas "The fact is undoubted and indisputable that at Detroit and other posts under both French and English rule, the Indians received goods in payment for human scalps as regularly as for coon and muskrat skins."** (Farmer p232)

On August 31, 1747 a settler named Martineau wandered a little to far from the fort and was scalped by four Indians.(Farmer 232)

George Washington
Colonel George Washington in 1753 on his return trip from interviewing the French commandant was himself narrowly escaped being massacred by the Indians. (Farmer p232)

Cannibals

French residents of Detroit in 1756 stated that Iroquois actually ate the flesh of persons slain in battle. (Farmer p 322) History records many incidents of this.

In November of 1757 a party of three hundred Canadians and Indians fell upon the German settlers killed forty took one hundred and fifty captives and carried off an immense quantity of provisions and livestock. (Farmer p 233)

During French rule four kings and three regents exercised authority over Warren Henry IV Mary de Medici, Louis XIII, Anne, Louis XIV, Louis XV. They wanted power wealth and comfort for themselves. They did not care about our ancestors or their subjects.

The Language Problem

Back in the past there were over 10,000 languages. Now there are still over a thousand languages spoken around the world and English is understood by only about ten percent of all humans.

We need an "auxiliary international vocabulary" for use between speakers of different languages.

Humans need to understand each other especially in emergencies. If you look at any world almanac's history section you will see that mankind's history is filled with thousands of years of senseless unnecessary violence that continues into today. Today we still have Americans and thousands of other humans dying around the world in senseless and needless violence often set off by communication failure. This failure is due to not being able to understand the hundreds of languages spoken in the world and due to the absurd notion that most people in the world are going to learn English. In fact most people in the world don't have time to learn English with all of its irregularities and ambiguous words, and they certainly will not learn it in our lifetime. So we need an easy to learn international vocabulary. There is one which has been proved successful called Esperanto. (No it is not Spanish, rather an international easy to learn vocabulary. See easiestlanguage.info

## French settlers

There were many French settlers around Detroit and northward mostly along the banks of the Detroit River and lake St Clair. They had very long narrow farms that touched on the water's edge. They were mostly a happy peaceful lot. Reports from Detroit were that it was a fairly happy place where almost everyone were friends. Any trouble was dealt with quickly by the military stationed there. The French settler's friendliness to the Indians probably saved their lives later. But the Indians continually begged for things.

Between 1689 and 1763 France and Great Britain fought four wars. The French and Indian War went from 1754-1760 was really the struggle between the French and the British for domination of North America. The British defeated the French and took control of Canada, Michigan and the fur trade. About 160 years of French rule came to an end in 1760.

## The Bloody British

By 1750 the British colonies had 1.5 million people compared with Canada with 50,000. In 1755 British General Braddock with 1,500 soldiers began to attack the French and their Indian allies. The general "refused to heed the advice of the colonial military men, whom he considered untutored in the art of war." (Lawrence E. Ziewacz 40) The general had 100 miles to go thru the woods so he decided to build a road. This process was noisy and slow and alerted the enemy who snuck up on his tired soldiers at dawn and killed Braddock and 977 of his soldiers.

British Rule began in Michigan on November 29 1760 when British Major Robert Rogers and his command arrived at Detroit. At that time there were 300 houses and 2,000 inhabitants. The English were also after furs and wanted to own North America.

The British did not treat the Indians as well as the French did. They did not give out as many gifts and they set the Indian tribes against each other and against American settlers. The Indians were duped by

Europeans into killing one another and killing Europeans and later killing American settlers. In general the Indians were cheated out of their lands, displaced sometimes murdered by Europeans and Americans and sometimes they retaliated. A few of their descendants still live in Macomb County.

The Bloody British used all the means they could to get the Indians to kill settlers. (Farmer 233, 261) The British led raiding parties of Indians to kill settlers and then paid them for the scalps.

The British flag flew over Michigan for thirty-six years from 1760-1796 and off an on until after the war of 1812 and it took a few years after that. for all of the sympathizers to clear out. Then the British still had major control over some Indians which caused some settlers to be killed up to 1830. So if one is counting years that the British had major influence in the Michigan area the total would probably be around seventy years of bloody British sponsored killings.

English Commanding Officers
1760 Major Robert Rogers
1760 to 1763 Major Donald Campbell
1763 to August 31, 1764 Major Henry Gladwin
1764 Colonel John Bradstreet
1765 Colonel John Campbell
1766, Aug 26 Major Robert Bayard
1767-1769 Captain George Turnbull
1770 June 2, to September, Major T Bruce
1770, September, to January 8, 1772 James Stephenson
1772 Major Etherington
1772-1774 Major Henry Bassett
1774 Major R B Lernoult
1775 Captain Montpasant
1775 Major Arent Schuyler De Peyster
1776 Captain Lord
1778 December, to October, 1779 Major Richard Beringer Lernoult
1779, October, to June 1, 1784, Major Arent Schuyler De Peyster

Note Henry Hamilton the hair buyer was the British Lieutenant Governor of Detroit in 1779 This position was higher than simply the post commander.
1784, June 1, to Major William Ancram
1785, June, Captain Bennet
1786, June, Major R Matthews
1787, Major Wiseman
1789, September 2, Major Patrick Murray
1790, November 14, Major D W Smith
1791 Colonel England
1791, Major John Smith, of Fifth Regiment
1792, Major Claus
1792, October 24, Colonel Richard England
1793, March, to 1796, Colonel Richard England of Twenty-fourth Regiment
1793, Captain William Doyle (Silas Farmer p 227)

The above men were actually absolute dictators. De Peyster hanged a woman. Hit a person with his cane and had a person trampled. In 1763 (Farmer 171) Hamilton hanged people in 1776.

We in our time have rule by law. They had rule by brute force.

When word of the American Revolution came in most of the French settlers were more sympathetic to the Americans than to the British. The British did not want American settlers coming into the area so they had them killed.

To discourage settlers, rumors were spread that the Warren area was as an impassable swamp.

The British gave bands of Indians guns, gun powder, tomahawks and scalping knives. The British actually bought scalps and led raiding parties against settlers, and any Indian family not aligned with them. Again it was rule by brute force rather than rule by law. Hundreds of Michigan settlers and Indians were brutally tortured and scalped

including children. Settlers in the Macomb county area did not escape this terrible fate.

Pontiac's rebellion

In late April 1763 Ottawa war chief Pontiac called a grand council of the tribes in the vicinity of Detroit and urged them to join him in an attack upon the British fort. Pontiac proposed a plan to capture Fort Detroit. On the morning of May 7, fifty warriors accompanied him to the fort, each carrying a concealed tomahawk or knife. Pontiac carried a green-and-white wampum belt (shells embroidered into a belt). Once inside the fort, he would signal the attack by turning the belt over. The fort's commander, Major Henry Gladwin, had learned of the plan and Pontiac's followers found themselves outnumbered by the British redcoats, who were armed and ready. Pontiac and his men left the fort. The next day the Indians returned and asked to be allowed into the fort. Gladwin refused. Pontiac then placed Detroit under siege. Detroit's defenders worried about flaming arrows and suffered a constant shortage of supplies, yet, the Indians failed to close Gladwin's water link to the east and force the fort's surrender. Several other British forts fell. If there were any American settlers in Warren they were probably butchered. But by fall, Pontiac's warriors needed to return to their families and the siege ended.

An Indian woman saved the fort at Detroit. She was a member of Pontiac's tribe and noticed that warriors had obtained files to cut down their gun barrels to make concealed weapons. She found out that they were going to massacre the people in the fort. So she went to see the fort commander and informed him of the plot. Pontiac found out about it and repeatedly beat her to near death.

Although there was no fighting in Michigan during the American Revolution except for the killing of settlers, Detroit was the center of British power in the west. Word of the American Revolution reached the frontier of which the Detroit area was a part. The British told the Indians that the American settlers would be taking their land. The British gave bands of Indians guns, powder, tomahawks and scalping

knives. Raids on American settlements in the east were organized from Detroit. Thousands of American settlers died because of the raiders.

On May 9 1763 without provocation an old woman and her two sons were murdered and scalped. On Belle Isle a settler by the name of Mr. Fisher and his wife were also murdered and their two children taken never to be seen again. This happened where the Scott memorial is now n Belle Isle. Over 100 English traders were murdered that summer. The Indians also cruelly tortured many people. (Ferris Lewis p51)

The Bloody Red Run?
Legend is that the Red Run River got its name from the red color of the water from the butchery of Chief Pontiac's warriors killing others at the banks of the river. Still others claim color was from cranberries. Truth is we don't know.

Hamilton the Hair Buyer
The British Governor of Detroit became known as "Hamilton the Hair Buyer" because he bought scalps. Englishmen sometimes led the Indians on raids on American settlers. Ferris Lewis in his book My State and Its Story states "So murderous were these raids that the year 1777 is known in American History as the year of the three bloody sevens. Mutilated bodies with scalps gone, smoldering ashes of what was once a settler's cabin on the frontier, tales of horror and massacre; these marked the trail of the Indian raiders. Hundreds of settlers thus perished before the Indians' guns and tomahawks." Many innocent people were also cruelly tortured. Why did the Indians gather scalps? Who paid them for the scalps and provided this primitive people with scalping knives? (Ferris Lewis p 57)

The Treaty of Paris in 1783, obligated the British leave Detroit it took them thirteen years and some naval battle losses before they left. British rule which began in 1760 ended by 1815. They left a bloody 55 year legacy. They earned the title Bloody British.

There were small bands of Indians that lived just outside of the fort at Detroit from 1701 -1820. For the most part they were semi friendly because they were often begging for articles they did not have like knives, pots, tomahawks, blankets, whiskey etc.

The following is paraphrased from an article on the Hair Buyer which does not quote the source appears at http://www.essortment.com/all/henryhamilton_rbxy.htm

Henry Hamilton was he British Lieutenant Governor of Detroit in 1777 who was widely known on the frontier as the hair Buyer. He was the power behind deadly Indian raids to American settlements. He bought American scalps from these raids.

The British had captured Vincennes which was at that time more or less the capital of the region. George Rogers Clark felt that his small force of Kentucky riflemen was no match against the British unless he could mount a surprise attack. In the middle of winter he and his men set out on February 6 to go overland. Clark's men struggled, waded thru wet mud, forded wet areas where they had to break the ice. They had insufficient clothing and here half starving. Finally they achieved a surprise attack and after a struggle Hamilton surrendered February 25, 1779\. During negotiations, for Hamilton's surrender Clark's men intercepted a war party on it’s way to Hamilton to present American scalps for payment. The Indians were in possession of scalps. They were tied to a fence and killed in view of the British defenders of the fort. Hamilton surrendered. Clark immediately had Hamilton clamped in irons. There was great hatred for Hamilton. Even Thomas Jefferson, ordered him shackled in irons and thrown into a dungeon. The net effect was to greatly weaken the British power and their influence over the Indians. To weaken the Indians further Clark sent agents to Indian tribes causing several tribes to drop hostilities.

Daniel Boone was held by Hamilton in Detroit he was treated with unusual courtesy.

When Hamilton was imprisoned by Jefferson, Boone made a visit to see him.

In 1781 Hamilton was released in a prisoner exchange. and became Governor of Quebec and later Governor of Bermuda.

As the Indians gradually became aware that the French and British were growing weaker and that the Americans were growing stronger they continued to fight. General Josiah Harnar moved so slowly that the Indians easily could keep track of him and when the time was right attack. In October 1790 a detachment was ambushed and 183 men killed. In 1791 a force of 3,000 men under command of Governor St Clair set out from Fort Washington. When his tired army reached the Maumee River and pitched their tents for the night they did not post adequate guards. The camp was quietly surrounded, then furiously attacked. Leaving 630 dead and 383 wounded behind. After this victory the Indians fell mercilessly on settlers who were massacred along with their wives and children. (Willis F Dunbar 169, 170) Following this President George Washington called on young “Mad Anthony” Wayne who spent the next year training his troops. Wayne took his army to the same location where St Clair's army was defeated. The Indians under Chief Little Turtle with 2000 braves was confident that they would have a repeat victory attacked in earnest but this time the troops were ready and defeated the Indians. (Willis F Dunbar 170) Wayne reported that he had proof that the British were behind the attack and supplied them with supplies and ammunition. In 1774 a battle between Wayne's army and a large Indian force under Tecumseh a young Shawnee warrior took place in a place called Fallen Timbers. Wayne was completely victorious. This victory broke the back of the Indian resistance. The Indians realizing that their cause was useless settled for as much as they could get in goods by ceding large areas of land to the Americans in the Treaty of Greenville in 1795. (Willis F Dunbar 171)

Detroit had about 500 inhabitants in 1796.

The Jay treaty of 1794 was signed in Europe and the British agreed to abandon its forts by June 1 1796. On July 11 1796 Captain Moses Porter raised the Stars and Stripes over Detroit for the first time. (Lawrence E. Ziewacz 57)
It contained mostly French inhabitants who spoke French. The merchants and traders were mainly English and Scotch. There were a few Americans and both Indian and Negro slaves. Those who held slaves were allowed to keep them when the Americans took over as they were considered property. (Willis F Dunbar 176) Fort Lernoult so named by the British was renamed Fort Detroit. Within it were barracks for the troops, and shops for the carpenter, baker and armorer. (Willis F Dunbar 176) Dunbar states that below the fort was the town which consisted of about a hundred mostly log houses. Only a few were frame dwellings. In the river were sloops, schooners, canoes and other kinds of craft. In the town were also shops and taverns. The whole river had ribbon farms on both sides. (Willis F Dunbar 176) Laws were enforced by justices who defined crimes and punishments. Flogging, fines and standing in the stocks were the standard punishments. For lesser infractions. (Willis F Dunbar 179) Warren was no-man's land in the wilderness.

What the settlers had to say about the Indians
Here is what one settler reported about the Indians: The women cultivated Indian corn, beans, peas, squashes and melons. The Indians danced, and play games such as la crosse. In summer most of the men went naked except for a breech cloth and moccasins. Some wear fancy clothes with lots of vermillion and buffalo hide robes in the winter. many paint their bodies in colorful colors. They often play village against village with heavy betting. (Farmer p 322)

Regarding the Hurons Silas quotes a French memoir. They are the most industrious nation they can be seen the scarcely dance are always at work raise a very large amount of Indian corn, peas, beans, some grow wheat but they construct their huts entirely of bark. very strong and solid very lofty and very long in arch like arbors. Their fort is strongly encircled with pickets and bastions well redoubled and have strong

gates. They are the most faithful nation to the French and most expert hunters we have. Their cabins are divided into sleeping compartments which contain their “misirague” and are very clean. They are the bravest of all nations and possess considerable talent. They are well clad. Some of them wear close overcoats the men are always hunting summer and winter and the women work. When they go hunting in the fall a goodly number remain to guard their fort. The old women and through out the winter the other women who remain gather wood in large quantity. The soil is very fertile. Indian corn grows there to the height of ten to twelve feet. Their fields are very clean and very extensive. Not the smallest weed is to be seen in them. (Farmer p 322)

Christian Indians Built Michigan's First Road here

1783 peaceful Christian Delaware Indians, escaping from marauding American militia, sought refuge on the Clinton River on land granted by the Chippewa. They were ministered to by the Moravian missionaries. They wanted to provide their good neighbors and themselves with a road that could get their corn to the mill in Detroit. A road was needed because the ground was often too muddy for wagons. By 1786 this group of surviving, Moravian Christian Indians had built the first inland road in Michigan in order to carry their wheat to the mill on Tremble Creek. It ran 23 and one half miles from what is now Southwest Mt. Clemens along the south branch of the Clinton River, along Red Run, then heading south along Bear Creek down what is now Sherwood, then Southeast along Connor which was along Tremble's Creek now Connor's Creek to Tremble's mill. It was at the point where ten mile road crossed this old trail road that later Kunrod’s corners was established which eventually lead to the creation of Center Line. What a wonderful legacy they left to our American pioneers after their tribe had been brutally massacred by the Americans. Oh, their reward was to be forced off of their settlement again. The first settlers may have followed this plank road that the Peaceful Indians had built along the Red Run Creek to a higher spot near what is now Mound Road.

Some Indians were very trustworthy and had accounts with local merchants. In 1815 there were probably 40,000 Indians in the State of Michigan. By 1825 30,000 and by 1880 only 10,141.

General Cass related an experience of James May “During the American Revolutionary war, when the Indian war-parties approached Detroit, they always gave the war and death whoops, so that the inhabitants, who were acquainted with their customs, knew the number of scalps they had brought and of prisoners they had taken...Soon after I arrived in Detroit, the great war party which had captured Ruddle's Station in Kentucky, returned from that expedition. Hearing the usual signals of success, I walked out of town and soon met the party. The squaws and young Indians had ranged themselves on the side of the road, with sticks and clubs, and were whipping the prisoners with great severity. Among these were two young girls, thirteen or fourteen years old who escaped from the party and ran for protection to me and to a naval officer. I found the naval officer, who was with me the preceding day, already there.” Later both he and the naval officer were severely reprimanded for helping the poor children. Those poor children had probably witnessed their parents being killed and scalped and were cruelly and severely being whipped and beaten just because they were captives. (Farmer p262) If one has any doubt about the reason Indians were referred to as savages this should make it very clear. Even the squaws and Indian children were participating in this totally unnecessary cruelty.

“William McVey related the following observation to Judge Witherell which occurred Sept 15, 1814. “David and William Burbank and myself were sitting down [near the fort] Mr. McMillan and Archy passed us. We spoke to them about some apples they were eating. They passed on towards some cows that were feeding” nearby ...When they approached within gunshot of some bushes we saw three of four guns fired, and Mr. McMillan fall. The Indians instantly dashed upon him and took off his scalp. Archy, on seeing that his father was killed, turned and ran towards us with all the speed that his little legs could supply. A savage

on horseback pursued him...The savage sprang from his horse, seized the boy and dragged him off to the woods," (farmer 285)

"After the massacre at the Raisin, the few who were judged able to march were taken to Malden and Detroit, but when any of them gave out they were tomahawked without mercy. Those who could scarcely walk on account of wounded and bleeding feet were compelled to dance on the frozen ground for the amusement of the savages." (Farmer 280)

Ransom of prisoners
"On arrival of the prisoners at Detroit, the inhabitants used great exertions to procure accommodations for the wounded, and to ransom the prisoners from the Indians. Thirty-four or more were ransomed here, seven by Colonel Elliott of Malden, and one by Colonel Francis Baby. Day after day for a month the prisoners were brought in and with the characteristic sympathy of their sex, the women left ordinary duties undone that they might watch at their doors to bargain for the ransom and relief of the sick and wounded.

"The unfortunate prisoners were literally hawked about the streets for sale, the price ranging from ten dollars to eighty dollars. The only question with the Indians seemed to be, whether they could get more goods for a live captive than for a fresh scalp. One account says, "They even dug up the dead bodies and tore off their scalps that they might cheat their employers by selling them at the same price as if taken from the newly dead." In their efforts to satisfy the savages and release the noble Kentuckians who had volunteered for the rescue of Detroit, many citizens absolutely impoverished themselves. Household valuables, clothing, shawls, and blankets from the beds, were given in exchange for the captives." (Farmer 280)

"General Cass in an article for the American Review for April 1827, shows conclusively that the British Government did not ransom a single prisoner during the War of 1812, and that a positive official order was issued prohibiting American citizens from so doing." (Farmer 285)

The Killing of Settlers
Even though treaties were signed by 1783, the British still tried to maintain their power and influence with the Indians. This embolded the Indians and they became more hostile killing many Americans. Silas states **"Competent authorities estimate that from 1783 to 1790 not less than three thousand persons were scalped or made captives by bands from Detroit."**

<u>This led to the US Government and groups forming armies to kill the Indians.</u>

American Scalps were paraded daily thru Detroit

Sometimes the Indians won. In 1790 scalps of American soldiers were paraded daily thru the streets of Detroit accompanied by the demoniac scalp-yells of the warriors who had taken them. (Farmer p265) Not all Indians agreed with treaties that cheated them out of their lands and they continued to fight when ever and where ever they could often killing innocent settlers.

**Having had thousands of settlers massacred, the Americans went on the attack. They raised militias and armies. American settlers often cruelly attacked innocent and harmless Indians such as the Moravians who were gentle, and peace loving.**

General George Rogers Clark and about five hundred frontiersmen led raids against the Indians and the French. Their call was that the only good Indian was a dead Indian.

The American victory at the Battle of Fallen Timbers (August 20, 1794) , and the presence of Wayne's Army, forced the British to leave Michigan. On July 11, 1796, the American flag was raised over Detroit.

10,000 Americans Kidnapped 1794 Jay's treaty GET OUT!

The Treaty of Paris (1783) officially ended the American War for Independence, but England refused to leave the forts in the Northwest Territory; also she seized American ships, forcing American sailors to serve in England's war against France. The British still wanted to own North America. They also wanted to control the seas. The British captured over 1000 American ships and kidnapped over 10,000 Americans. They also tried to stop Americans from trading around the world. They fired on American ships. This led to the US to declaring war on the British. In 1794 Jay's Treaty ended British control over Detroit.

Surrendering troops were massacred (Farmer p280)

In 1781 The Spanish attacked Michigan at Fort Miami.

William Tucker was probably the first European person speaking the English language ever brought into this region, [probably about 1760] who afterward settled within the county.

Americans taking over
In 1796 Christian Clemens surveyed a half-Indian half-French settlement on the Huron River (Clinton). He later built the first house there. This area was a part of New France but it was claimed by the British and Americans.

American Frontiersman George Rogers Clark and about 172 frontiersmen led raids against the Indians and the British. 1778-1779.

In 1796 General John F Hamtramck was sent to occupy Detroit for the Americans. This was July of 1796. At this time Wayne County was formed. The population was just over 500. This probably did not count Indians. This is down from the often over 2,000 count when the British ran the place. Many British loyalists had left for Canada.

In 1796 Wayne County was formed on paper, named after the general Wayne who defended American settlers. About that time the British

loyalists left for Canada. Canada was considered enemy territory for many years. Fort Wayne was later built to protect the US from British attack.

Peaceful Christians Slaughtered

The Americans are coming! As the Americans were coming to power there was more bloodshed and butchery. **Into this conflict came brave Christian missionaries from Moravia a section of Germany. Their congregations consisted almost entirely of peaceful Indians,** part of a band of Delaware Indians. Some of these migrated to Michigan becoming the first Protestants in Michigan. Clarence M. Burton the prominent historian stated "A band of Moravians went to Gnaden-huetten" (a settlement just west of Mt Clemens on the bank of the Clinton River) "in the spring of 1782 to collect corn they had planted the previous fall." They were collecting this to feed their starving families in Sandusky Ohio when they were taken prisoners by a band of Americans, then taken to Fort Pitt where they were allowed to send for their families. These peaceful Christians were no threat to anyone, "When they had all collected together they were told they must all die. They begged for mercy. **They fell upon their knees in prayer and while thus engaged one of their captors picked up a cooper's mallet and with a hasty stride forward he dashed out the brains of the nearest Indian, whose eyes were closed and hands uplifted as he still knelt in prayer.** Not an Indian stirred as the murderer proceeded down the line. Again and again he performed the act of murder until a row of fourteen ghastly corpses marked his bloody path. Breathless with the awful work, he tossed the mallet to a companion, saying: "Go on with the glorious work. I have done pretty well." this was but the opening of the tragedy. The flood-gates of murder were open. The tide would have its way. Old men and young men, loving mothers, gentle maidens, and nursing babies, innocent in the sight of earth and Heaven, meek and unresisting as lambs led to the slaughter, were massacred outright. **Ninety Six persons were put to death within half an hour." This was done by the Americans.** The British, were also incensed against these Christian Indians because it was part of the Moravian creed to be friendly with all people and to take no part in war. The British could not

get the Moravian Christians to make war against the Americans. Isn't it ironic that the Americans committed this act against a group of people that would never have hurt them? Historians feel that those Americans acted in haste without thinking out what would have been best. Some historians feel that the language barrier was partly to blame. If some of the parties could have spoken a super simple language such as Esperanto perhaps they could have had better understanding and settled the matter with discussion rather than brute violence.

What was the Indians crime? None. They were just gathering corn that they themselves had planted to feed their starving families. It was rule of bruit force rather then rule by law. This time the Americans were the savages. What should we call this behavior? Cruel, inhumane, harmful, violent, criminal? We have learned that the best actions are to Be Wise, considerate, Kind Do Good, Cause no harm and now in courts "What would a reasonable responsible person do?"

The North West Territory was established on paper July 13, 1787 The Governor was General St Clair

The Indiana Territory was established on paper October 1804 The Governor was General Harrison

The Michigan Territory was established on paper Jan 1805. The Governor was General Hull and Cass.

Despite this the needless killing continued in the territory.

Americans hoisted the American Flag in Detroit July 11, 1796 but the killing was not over.

American Commanding Officers over the Detroit Area (Farmer 227)
1796 July 11, Captain Moses Porter
1796, July 12, Colonel John F Hamtramck
1796, Major-General Anthony Wayne
1797, Major-General James Wilkinson

1797, to December 17, 1799 Colonel D Strong
1799, December 17, to February, 1800, Major Henry Burbeck
1800 Colonel Porter
1800-1802, Major Thomas Hunt
1802 to April 11, 1803 Colonel J F Hamtramck
1803 Major Henry Burbeck
1803 Major John Whistler
1803 Colonel Thomas Hunt
1805 August, to April 1807 Captain S T Dyson
1809-1811 Captain Jacob Kingsbury
1812 May, Major John Whistler
1812 July, Colonel Brush
1812, July, to august 16, 1812 Gen Wm Hull
1813 September 29, General Duncan McArthur
1813 Major=General William Henry Harrison
1813 October, Colonel Lewis Cass
1813 November, Captain Abraham Edwards
1814 February, Colonel Anthony Butler
1814 March Colonel George Croghan
1814 July Colonel Anthony Butler
1815 January 1 to February 4 Colonel Charles Gratiot

In 1800 95% of working population engaged in agriculture.

In 1805 Detroit burned down when sparks from the pipe of the town's baker fell into a pile of hay. The resulting fire spread quickly, only the fort was left standing. Two weeks later the territorial government was formed in Detroit under American General William Hull.

Michigan Territory formed
Our area was part of the North West Territory until **1815 when it became the Michigan Territory.** In 1805, President Thomas Jefferson signed an act establishing the Michigan Territory.

Of course it was a start at law and order, even if it was martial law.

In 1805 The American emigration had begun and by 1810 Detroit had a population of 750. The population of the entire Michigan territory was 4762.

According to reports most Indians were beggars and the French and British gave them much. The Americans had to feed them. They even asked for free blacksmith service. They did not knock but just came in and begged. This continued all year. By 1825 they were becoming a big nuisance. Some would get drunk and lay around. (Farmer p323)

They fooled a general
In 1812 American General Hull first invaded Canada then without good reason retreated to his strong Fort at Detroit. General Hull after being attacked surrendered his force of over 2,000 and the heavily armed fort at Detroit to a much smaller force led by British General Brock who with the Indian Chief Tecumseh fooled Hull into thinking they had a much larger force.

In 1812 General Hull ordered Fort Dearborn evacuated. Chief Blackbird at the head of a five hundred-man Pottawatomie and Winnebago ambushed the retreating party. Wells and Heald led a desperate defensive attack up the dune. The wagon-train of women and children was left unprotected. In no time, the Americans were completely surrounded and alone; Half the soldiers were killed and the local militia force was systematically wiped out. One bloodthirsty young warrior slipped into a covered wagon and beheaded twelve children. Mrs. Heald's black slave, Cicely, was one of two women killed while fighting to save the young ones. Heald was wounded but alive. Wells was not so lucky. His head was cut off and his heart eaten by the chiefs who hoped to gain some of his courage. Despite Heald’s efforts to ransom the survivors, more were killed after the battle. Others remained Indian prisoners for almost a year. Paraphrased from http://www.galafilm.com/1812/e/events/ftdearborn.html

**In January 1813 Red Coats and Indians under Tecumseh surprised and captured or killed almost a thousand American militiamen on**

**the River Raisin. This was the bloodiest battle in Michigan history. They destroyed an entire US Army.**

In 1813 hundreds of soldiers died from diseases at Detroit during the fall and winter of 1813. British Colonel Proctor learned that his military position was hopeless and ordered all public buildings in Detroit burned and the city evacuated.

The Battle of Lake Erie, Americans beat the British
is sometimes referred to as the Battle of Put-In-Bay, was fought on 10 September 1813, in Lake Erie off the coast of Ohio during the War of 1812. Nine vessels of the United States Navy defeated under command of Oliver Hazard Perry and captured six vessels of Great Britain's Royal Navy. This ensured American control of the lake for the remainder of the war, which in turn allowed the Americans to recover Detroit and win the Battle of the Thames to break the Indian confederation of Tecumseh. It was one of the biggest naval battles of the war of 1812. Although Perry won the battle on the Niagara, he received the British surrender on the deck of the recaptured Lawrence to allow the British to see the terrible price his men had paid.

The British lost 41 killed and 94 wounded. The surviving crews, including the wounded, numbered 306. The Americans lost 27 killed and 96 wounded, of whom 2 later died. The vessels were anchored and hasty repairs were underway near West Sister Island when Perry composed his now famous message to Harrison. Scrawled in pencil on the back of an old envelope, Perry wrote: Dear General: We have met the enemy and they are ours. Two ships, two brigs, one schooner and one sloop. Yours with great respect and esteem, O.H. Perry (Willis F Dunbar 217) and (Wikipedia)

With lake Erie free of the General Harrison now with 2,500 troops attacked the British and forced them to withdraw from Forts Malden and Detroit. In September 1813 the bloody British evacuated Detroit but first burned the public buildings. In October 1813 General Harrison also intercepted 850 British Troops and 800 Indians in their retreat to

Toronto and defeated them at the battle of the Thames. The Indian chief Tecumseh was killed. The Indians were now totally defeated. Only scattered resistance remained but was gone by 1830.

On October 29 1813 President James Madison appointed Cass governor of the Michigan territory a position he was to have for 18 years. (Willis F Dunbar 218)

By early 1814 the young United States was insolvent.
**The British almost took back the United States in 1814.**
**They beat the American navy. They marched on Washington DC.**

**The British burned and sacked the US Capitol.**
**They attacked American Forts.** There were more battles. The British captured more American ships and held Mackinac. But then the Americans got lucky. Major General Andrew Jackson, known to his men as "Old Hickory." managed to beat the British in the Battle of New Orleans on Jan 8, 1815. Events in Europe had actually resulted in the Treaty of Ghent being signed Christmas Eve 1814. (Willis F Dunbar 222) Dunbar also points out that along the 5,425- mile boundary line between Canada and the US today there are more than eight thousand monuments but not a single manned fortification. And the last small garrison at Fort Mackinac was removed in 1894.[not a typo this is the date in the book] (Willis F Dunbar 223)

1814 Detroit Area Settlers still being killed by Indians
Settlers were still being killed by Indians near Detroit so Governor Cass organized a company of volunteers in Sept 1814.

On Oct 9 General M Arthur arrived with 700 mounted riflemen to protect the city.

But the British continued to search American ships and spent a lot of money on gifts to Indians in hopes of encouraging further Indian attacks on Americans. British influence over Michigan tribes was not easy to eradicate. (Lawrence E. Ziewacz 65)

In Oct 1815 Dr Macomb found several Indians encamped near a ravine with remains of several of his cattle. One Indian leveled his gun at Macomb but was shot by one of Macomb's men. (Farmer 285) Detroit was reoccupied September 29. Then Governor Cass had to feed an average of 400 begging Indians a day for several years. They posed a threat to the citizens but he did not have the forces to expel them. (Farmer 323)

Slavery

Slavery was practiced by Indians for thousands of years. It was accepted in Detroit from 1701 as **The French allowed slaves. The Indians took slaves and traded them**. Most people were against slavery. Michigan was not a slave state. The ordinance of 1787 stipulated that all settlers and traders could "continue to enjoy, unmolested all their property of every kind" including slaves. In 1827 the territorial legislature passed a law protecting free blacks from being kidnapped by slave catchers. Michigan became a major supporter of the underground railroad. The United States gradually turned against slavery. Thirteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution in 1865 finally outlawed it.

Most of the slaves in the colonies were purchased from Muslim slave traders in Africa. They had been profiting from slave trade since the beginning of their religion about 640 AD. In fact slavery is still an accepted part of their law even today. Just look at any country they have a majority in. Speaking of today there is more slavery now than at any time in history. There was a anti trafficking task force in Warren in 2022 and ones at every auto show in Detroit.

The Michigan fur trade prospered under John Jacob Astor's American Fur Company based on Mackinac Island. It is said he became the richest man in America. But over trapping and the upward settlement of farmers forced the fur trade to all but end in the early 1830s.

In later years groups of Americans also launched attacks on Canada from Detroit.

Fort Gratiot was built in 1814 at Port Huron. Americans considered the British enemies.

After battles and naval battles on Lake Erie, The War of 1812 was over by the February of 1815. Because of Put-In-Bay Michigan was In American Hands to Stay.

By 1816 the British had withdrawn,
and Detroit was back in the hands of the Americans to stay. Look up Commodore Perry and a place called Put-In-Bay! As a child my grandfather took me on a huge steam powered liner named the Put-In-Bay to visit Put-In-Bay. There were other big Great Lake side-wheeled-steam powered liners like the Greater Detroit and the Western States.

Even though Wayne County was formed in 1796 not much had been done as the British and Indians took awhile to exit. They had become largely dependent on Europeans and turned into beggars.

The war, which ended in late 1814, had a devastating effect upon Michiganians. Claiming that more than half the territory's population was "destitute," Territorial Justice Augustus Woodward noted in March 1815, "the desolation of the territory is beyond all perception."

Not until the Americans took control of this area and broke the power of the British and their Indian allies was it safe to settle here. **A study by Kentucky showed that 1520 American settlers from Kentucky were murdered in repeated ravages between 1783 and 1790 in the North. In reality the number may have been double that if the years 1700-1830 are factored in.**

Malaria and Ague
Unfortunately the flat terrain particularly to the west and southwest of Detroit became wet areas in the spring and fall. Because much of these wet areas had very poor drainage they did not dry out until summer resulting in huge numbers of mosquitoes. With the poor drainage after a

big summer rain there were even more mosquitoes. With them came the diseases malaria and ague. Sometimes the Indians and pioneers rubbed garlic or onions on their skin to ward off the insects. Southern Michigan settlers in particular commonly suffered from Malaria and ague. There were few doctors. Often they were doctors because they bought a medical book, read it then cut out the doctor certificate at the back and started practicing as a doctor with no formal medical training. A good doctor would prescribe Quinine then known as Peruvian bark. It was very expensive and many doctors refused to prescribe it. (Willis F Dunbar 259) The disease was debilitating but not often fatal. A feeling of tiredness followed by chills then a severe fever would come with racking headache and back pain. People would sweat and get the shakes. And often were too sick to do any work. Sometimes this occurred at a certain time each day sometimes every other day. Most people just made effort to survive it and do what they could.

With lack of refrigeration, unpasteurized milk and contaminated water digestive upsets were common. Epidemics of erysipelas (called St. Anthony's Fire) occurred. Dunbar lists contagious diseases such as scarlet fever, diphtheria, measles, mumps and smallpox took a heavy toll. Infant mortality was high. Pneumonia and Rheumatism was common. (Willis F Dunbar 260) There were no dentists and teeth just decayed and rotted in the mouth causing severe pain. If you have ever had a painful tooth you know how bad that is. Imagine having to live with it for years. Sometimes the folk cures for diseases and conditions were worse than the disease.

Epidemics

Medical care for the pioneers was nonexistent. There were no doctors or hospitals or even medicine. Medical knowledge was lacking. You lived or you died. Often people did not know what to do if they got sick. There were no phones to call for help or advice. They did not know that bacteria caused infection. In 1789 an unknown pestilence killed many. In 1813 and 1832 many died of epidemics. In the fall and winter of 1813 a severe epidemic prevailed in General Harrison's army. Hundreds of soldiers died, and were buried near the fort in Detroit.

In 1832 a serious epidemic occurred which may have affected settlers bound for Warren. Instructions on the prevention and cure of the cholera was printed. The mayor forbade vessels from any other port to land within a hundred yards or to land any person until after an examination by a health officer. Silas Farmer states on July 4 the steamer Henry Clay arrived on her way to Chicago with three hundred and seventy soldiers for the Black Hawk War. “On July 5 one of the soldiers died of cholera and the vessel was immediately ordered to Hog Island. From there she went on her way, but the disease attacked so many of the troops that it was useless for the vessel to proceed and she was compelled to stop at Fort Gratiot. From there the soldiers began to make their way to Detroit, but many of them died on the road and were devoured by wild beasts; only one hundred and fifty [out of 370] reached the city, arriving here about July 8. (Silas Farmer p48) “Meanwhile on July 6 two citizens died of the disease and a panic was at once created. Many persons left their business and fled from the city. In the country the excitement was even greater that at Detroit. On arrival of the mail-coach at Ypsilanti, the driver was ordered by a health officer to stop that an examination of passengers might be made. The driver refusing, his horses were fired on; one was killed, and the driver himself had a narrow escape. At other places fences were build across the roads and travelers were compelled to turn back. At Rochester persons from Detroit were turned our of the hotel and their baggage thrown after them, and the bridges were torn up to prevent persons from entering the village. At Pontiac a body of men were armed, and sentinels were stationed on the highway to prevent ingress. One of the citizens of this latter place, Dr Porter, came here to investigate the disease, but on his return he was refused admittance to his own home and compelled to revisit our city. “[Detroit] The deaths in Detroit were 96 traced mostly to “intemperance and carelessness.” (Silas Farmer p49) In 1834 “the disease again appeared and this time with added horrors.” It began in August and continued til the last of September. In 20 days there were 122 deaths from cholera and 57 from other causes. Ninety=five of these victims were strangers. [Some of those could have been settlers headed for Warren] “Seven percent of the population died

in a month. Business was hardly thought of. The air appeared unusually oppressive, and to purify it large kettles of pitch were burned at night in front of various housed and at intervals along the streets; the burial rite was shortened; and persons were not allowed to enter or leave the city without inspection and due delay. It had been the custom to toll the bell on the occasion of a death, but the tolling became so frequent that it increased the panic, and was therefore discontinued." (Silas Farmer p49)

"Mayor Trowbridge was especially active. Day after day he visited the hospital, and in many ways cared for the sick, most honorably fulfilling his duties as the chief magistrate of the city in its time of greatest need."... "Some of the patients were saved by the care of volunteer attendants after they had been given up by the regular physicians." (Silas Farmer p49)

"Tall, strong brave Father Martin Kundig outshone and outdid all others by his tireless devotion to the sick and dying. Soon after the cholera had made its appearance, Father Kundig bought the old Presbyterian Church, ...and divided it into two apartments, for male and female patients respectively. A one horse ambulance was then prepared, and morning after morning, night after night, he went here and there, gathering in the sick and taking them to the refuge which combined sanctuary and hospital. He was so much of the time with the patients that he was avoided on the streets lest he should spread the configaion. Dying patients, as they passed away, committed their children to his care, and the trust was faithfully administered. The Legislature, on March 18, 1937, vote him $3,000 in acknowledgment of his services; but he was never fully reimbursed for his expenses. He was seconded by the Sisters of St Claire. Mr. Alpheus White also rendered efficient aid, not only neglecting his business himself, but giving also the time of his employees. (Silas Farmer p49)

With epidemics often family members were laid side by side in common graves. Often several family members died within a short time. Many people died of conditions we have cures for now. Many children died young. Many died or suffered close calls even in Center

Line and Warren. Smallpox, Cholera, Influenza, TB, Diphtheria, Malaria and others were feared because they were killers (and still are). Many of the pioneer women died early deaths in childbirth. Many children of Center Line and Warren parents died very young of diseases we now have cures for, just as millions of children today are dying of diseases we have cures for and from malnutrition. Some right here in Michigan. Hospitals and good medical care just did not exist until recently. Many so called early doctors did not even graduate from medical school and even if they did the medical knowledge back then was often inadequate. Now we have hospitals and doctors with good medical training but 200,000 people die a year from medical malpractice. And by the way many children and parents in Center Line and Warren now do not have medical or dental coverage. This is not a political statement but historical fact.

Cholera

What a tragedy. Some immigrants traveled thousands of miles to come to Detroit and while waiting to buy Warren land at the land office in Detroit picked up the cholera bacteria and died shortly thereafter. There was a huge cholera outbreak in 1832. It is very probable that Warren area settlers (or soon to be settlers) came down with it or died of it. Cholera can be prevented. How does a person get cholera? A person may get cholera by drinking water or eating food contaminated with the cholera bacterium. In an epidemic, the source of the contamination is usually the feces of an infected person. The disease can spread rapidly in areas with inadequate treatment of sewage and drinking water. The cholera bacterium may also live in the environment in brackish rivers and coastal waters. Shellfish eaten raw have been a source of cholera, and a few persons in the United States have contracted cholera after eating raw or undercooked shellfish from the Gulf of Mexico. The disease is not likely to spread directly from one person to another; therefore, casual contact with an infected person is not a risk for becoming ill.

There was an epidemic of small pox in 1903 and most of the families in the village were quarantined. Dr Flynn was hired to care for them. Supplies and fuel was also purchased for the families affected.

Many children and adults died of diseases we have cures for now.

1918-1919 There was a terrible influenza epidemic that killed thousands of persons in Michigan and an estimated 25 million people world wide. There were so many orphans that an orphan asylum was active in Detroit. Communities were shut down. Businesses halted. In America body wagons were everywhere picking up the corpses to dump them sometimes into mass graves. Read the details on this terrible event.

In the old days there were epidemics and many died or suffered close calls even in Center Line and Warren. Smallpox, Cholera, Influenza, TB, Diphtheria, Malaria and others were feared because they were killers (and still are). Silas Farmer noted historian listed the most common maladies on the frontier as malarious fever, rheumatism, pneumonia, choleraic affections, croup, and pleursy. “There have also been occasional visitations of the ordinary epidemic and contagious diseases, such as influenza, measles, scarlet-fever, small-pox, etc., and within twenty years typhoid or rather typho-malarial fevers, and diphtheria have been added. The total number of deaths in 1880 was 1,074, in 1881, 1,709; in 1882, 2,712 and in 1883 2,957. (Silas Farmer p48)

Because of the poor drainage there were more misquotes which spread disease.

Many of the pioneer women died early deaths in childbirth. Many children of Center Line and Warren parents died very young of diseases we now have cures for, just as millions of children today are dying of diseases we have cures for and from malnutrition. Some right here in Michigan. Hospitals and good medical care just did not exist until recently. Many so called early doctors did not even graduate from medical school and even if they did the medical knowledge back then

was often inadequate. In fact a person could buy a medical book and in the back was a diploma. Many people became “doctors” in that manner. Now we have hospitals and doctors with good medical training but 200,000 people die a year from medical malpractice. I will say it again. At the present time many children and parents in Center Line and Warren do not have medical or dental coverage. This is historical fact.

How an Indian woman saved the Governor’s life

In 1820 The new governor of Michigan was Lewis Cass. He had a problem. It seems that rumors were being spread that Michigan was a swamp and terrible place to live. This had happened because surveyors had been sent out during a wet season and found many wet areas. He began a campaign to build roads, lighthouses, and he negotiated land treaties with the remaining Indians. He wanted to see for himself what the state was like so he on a 4,200 mile trip around the state. He and his men camped near where Sault Ste Marie is now located. He met with the local chiefs and asked their permission to build a fort there. They told him, no left the meeting and went over to a wigwam nearby and raised a British flag. Cass walked boldly over to the flagpole with only his interpreter, an Indian woman named Neenay. He told the chiefs thru his interpreter that no foreign flag was to be raised. Then he took the British flag down, stepped on it and removed it to his tent. At this point it was very likely that he would have been killed.

But his interpreter who was the daughter of an Indian chief and who had gone to school told the chiefs that it would be unwise to kill him as it would bring in the American Army. And thru her another meeting was set up resulting in permission to build the fort and gifts to the Indians. Had there not been an interpreter or a common language another war would probably happened and thousands would have died. Humans need to communicate with each other especially in emergencies. Have you ever tried to talk to someone who does not understand English. What if your life depended on it? Relating it to today’s world 90% of the world does not understand English now and will not learn it in our lifetime. If a few people in each community would invest ten minutes a day to learning the international vocabulary, we could understand and

be understood regardless of the local language. Why has it been mentioned here? Because it can save lives and save the US millions wasted in translating costs at the UN which all ends up in the trash within a short time. It has been scientifically proven to be the most time and cost efficient solution to the world language problem. And is historic fact that many people have died because of language nonunderstandings.

Indian Trails

There were no roads so areas close to rivers and lakes were settled first. You can't drive a wagon thru the woods and get very far. Detroit under European domination grew from a small settlement in 1701 with ever-stronger forts to an ever-bigger village. Hunting expeditions probably followed the Indian trail called the "centre line" what is now Sherwood Ave. Some Indian families may have lived here then. What was the "centre line"? There were several Indian trails in the 1700's. One trail followed the shoreline From Detroit to Port Huron. It was called the Huron trail probably because it led eventually the Huron River (later named the Clinton River) and on to the Lake Huron. One trail went from Detroit to Saginaw. In the middle was the "centre line trail" as it was called by the French. It ran along what is now Sherwood. It was named the Center Line Road or State Road and even later the part of it in Macomb County was named Sherwood. The Territorial Road Van Dyke became known as the Center Line road after the businesses at Kunrod's corners moved over to Van Dyke to be near the church built there in 1854.

Peace and Democracy Reigned Supreme

By 1817 democracy reigned supreme said Parkins in his book Historical Geography of Detroit. He quotes a lady resident of Detroit at the time as stating that in Detroit we were all friends Indians, soldiers, French and Americans. In Detroit there was much good society and hospitality. All sociable and interested in each other. Of course the Indians were doing a lot of begging. At this time most people could not read and had not attended school. Schools were being established.

The Americans knew very little about the interior except the areas near the rivers and lakes. Parkins states that the swampy nature of the land in the spring and fall and the dense nature of the vegetation served to check travel and exploration until when in 1818 a party undertook to discover whether the interior was habitable. They followed a road being built by U.S. soldiers which at that time had only reached a point four miles from the river. Then they followed an Indian guide along the Saginaw Trail to the site of Pontiac.

In warm weather the canoe was the major method of transportation and in winter the snow shoe.

US land office established in 1804 and the first public auction was in 1818. The average price of land was $4 per acre. (Farmer p37) Other laws were passed that lowered the price of land and the minimum number of acres that had to be purchased. Some was to be don on installment plan. In 1820 a cash price of $1.25 per acre was established with 80 acres the minimum. This is the price paid by most land buyers in Michigan. (Willis F Dunbar 162) It was not until later in 1862 that the Homestead law was enacted in which a person could receive 160 acres for a small fee by residing on the land for five years. Often a settler would build a cabin and clear the land before it was surveyed hoping to be able to purchase it. These were called squatters. In 1841 a "premption law" was passed giving a person who had settled on land, erected a dwelling, and made certain improvements, the right to purchase 160 acres at the minimum land price. (Willis F Dunbar 162)

By this time the few remaining Indians knew that they were outnumbered and that their way of life was no longer to be had here in Michigan. They settled for anything they could get.

In The Michigan Pioneer and Historical Collections Volume XVII 1890 History of Township of Shelby, Macomb County George H Cannon notes how the Indians were bought off by gifts gradually signed away their lands. (p420-422)

In general after 1820 what few Indians that had not fled or been killed lived in peace with the settlers. They realized that they were outnumbered and that their hunting, gathering, killing way of life was doomed. Some continued begging or were still a nuisance.

Old Old time recreation

For recreation in these old days there was visiting neighbors, foot races, dancing, singing and music with fiddlers. There was sleigh riding, sliding and ice skating in colder months. Horse riding, picnics on Hog island. Boat rides. There were some old time games and good wholesome food. The air was clean, the water was clean. There was no pollution. There was some drinking, There were community gatherings, picnics, barbecue games, foot races, jumping contests, wrestling, pitching, tug of war, singing dancing to an old fiddle and marching and singing games. There were barn raisings, house raisings, husking bees. Contests often included bobbing for apples, pie eating, Greased pig, three legged race, potato sac race. Often young people were looking for a lifetime mate. Couples often got married at 14 or 15. People were happy they felt that they were members of a community of people that cared for each others welfare.

Parks

In the 1800s and early 1900s there were no official parks. Any available shady spot was used if the location was in a location where people wanted to gather. Some farmers even build pavilions for bands and dancing such as at Ryan Park, and 9 Mile Warner park. In the Village of Warren what is now Eckstein park was referred to as Warren Park. There were annual Fourth of July picnics held there. We have been researching parks of late and so far this appears to be oldest park that is still a park. The oldest area used as a park was probably as weird as it may seem was the Green, Hessel Bunert Indian mound park now the baseball field to the south of Briarwood school. Let me clarify. In the old days people held picnics in the cemeteries to be close to their loved ones. Games were played there and music played.

The United States Ordinances of 1785 and 1787 called for division of western lands into townships six miles square and each of these to be divided into 36 numbered sections. The Land was to be surveyed then put up for sale at $1.00 per acre. This led to an orderly transition from wilderness to farmland. And when a territory reached 60,000 it could form a constitution and apply for statehood.

First recorded visit to Warren area.
The Indian titles were extinguished and Indians subdued. In 1815 the Michigan government began land surveys. Crews of men with measuring chains and tripod mounted compass were sent out to survey the area and mark it. A hardwood stake was set leaving about a foot above ground and all trees in the area were deeply notched. (Willis F Dunbar 239)

George H Cannon writes regarding SE Michigan "The field to be surveyed was so extensive, the the settlers so rapidly crowding into the wilderness, that many surveyors were employed and kept in the field. Among those who did a large amount of work in Michigan territory was Joseph Wampler, of Tuscurawas county, Ohio. It would be of interest to know something of Mr. Wampler's history but, after much correspondence and search, we find nothing definite in relation to him except as appears in the report of his survey. It is a matter commonly understood, among the early settlers, that he was a Methodist preacher but the official records of that body do not disclose his name. However this may be we know that Mr. Wampler was appointed deputy surveyor-general and assigned a contract to survey in the territory of Michigan. The contract bore the date the 18th day of October 1816 comprised the subdivisional survey of eighteen townships in eastern Michigan north of the base line east of the meridian. Described as towns 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 north of ranges 10, 11, and 12 east. Eighteen miles in width ease and west and 36 miles in extent north and south." Cannon notes this was a valuable area well watered and a rich agricultural region." He notes that a year earlier deputies had abandoned their work stating that the entire county was a lake, swamp or marsh. It was reported that the soil was barren and "Taking the country altogether, so far as has been

explored...there would not be one out of a thousand that would in any case admit of cultivation."

(Michigan Pioneer and Historical Collections Volume XVII 1890History of Township of Shelby, Macomb County by George H Cannon p423, 424)

"Mr. Wampler entered upon his work the February following the date of his contract. In this it was expressly stipulated that no member of Congress has any interest in it. The compensation for this labors, difficult and important work was only three dollars per mile and fraction thereof. At that time the winter season was deemed the best practicable time to make surveys, largely on account of the ease in crossing marshes and meandering lakes which would be frozen over. Previous to entering upon his work his assistants ( a marker and two chain men) were sworn in and subscribed to an affidavit that they would faithfully discharge their respective duties to the best of their ability and agreeably to instructions. This was signed by William Johnson and David Hoorne, as chain men, and by Joseph Clark as marker. Before the survey of the district was completed another set of chain men were sworn in, on Oct 21, 1817. These were Hatsuld Johnson and Francis Dudley, the latter signing by making his mark."

Joseph Clark evidently was the marker certified for the entire eighteen towns. Being certified as correct on Feb 3, 1818.

(Michigan Pioneer and Historical Collections Volume XVII 1890 History of Township of Shelby, Macomb County by George H Cannon p423, 424)

"In connection it may not be amiss to say that, taken as a whole, the survey in Mr. Wampler's district was, for those times, quite fairly done. And when we take into account the beggarly compensation of three dollars per mile for so important a work, the entire want of oversight on the part of any government official as the work progressed in the field—all being left entirely to the honor and integrity of the surveyor--

it must be conceded to be a matter worthy of great praise that the work was done so well that the settlers were enabled to locate their land without serious difficulty." Cannon notes that in many other cases other surveyors acquired the habit of returning fraudulent work largely made up of imaginary and fictitious notes. He states "It would appear that even at that early day the government, as well as individuals, had to learn the important lesson that honest work required honest pay and that both were best assured by one's knowledge; that fidelity to duty was by no means impaired by adequate compensation for work faithfully performed." After the survey notes were turned in the land could be put up for sale. Parts of the area were heavily forested, parts were grassy plains with scarcely any timber, other parts were swampy. (Michigan Pioneer and Historical Collections Volume XVII 1890History of Township of Shelby, Macomb County by George H Cannon p423, 424)

When Wampler surveyed the Warren area in 1817 they found swampy ground and other land up by the Red Run occupied by a few squatters and a few Indians. So Warren was being settled before Michigan became a state and before Macomb County was formed.

There were no roads just pathways marked by markers and blazed trees. Some folks made heavy dugout canoes which worked fine until the wood cracked and they leaked or split in half. Then they found out why the Indians made them out of birch bark sealed with rosin. It was impossible to get a wagon thru the woods and marshes.

Warren settled first by canoe

It is likely that the area of Warren Village, Beebe's corners, was settled just a little before Kunrod's Corners because the settlers could get there by water which was the primary method of travel at that time. Bear Creek had a tributary leading to the Centre Line Road which explains the zigzag where Sherwood crosses the railroad tracks. The earliest settlers probably settled along this route. They may have arrived by means of lake St Clair to the Huron river (now Clinton) to Red Run creek to the Creek Road. This route entailed less tramping thru the dense wilderness than the trek from Detroit. If they had or rented

wagons they could have used the Moravian plank road that the peaceful Christian Moravian Indians had built. The centre line trail became The State Road with use and was planked in 1856. It was the main North-South road for many years. It became a stock company road and had planks 10 feet wide. Many years later in 1890 when the planks had became rotten the road was condemned, then repaved with gravel.

The new American economy was booming and land around the fort at Detroit was growing more scarce. The great immigration was about to begin. Settlers came from the eastern United States and from many lands.

In 1818 Macomb County was formed. A base line had been set up across the state and the future main roads drawn on maps. It was the third county in Michigan. Parkins states that from 1818 immigration steadily increased. By 1820 the population of Michigan was 8,765. Most of this population was in areas near rivers or lakes.

After about 1818 we started to have rule by law rather than by brute force.
Constables were appointed. People accused were able to get a fair trial. James Fulton served as the first Macomb County sheriff from 1818-1822. There has been constant sheriff service since that time. Later as villages formed constables were appointed. Things were mostly settled in a peaceful manner rather than by brute force. Finally under American Rule of Law Warren had law and order and this has created over two hundred years of peace unknown to the Warren area at any prior time in the past.

The federal government started selling land in Macomb County. In 1819 the county of Oakland was subtracted and in 1820 the county of St Clair was subtracted from Macomb County. Romeo further north wasn't beginning to be settled until 1821.

Land For Sale!

The federal government was selling land to raise money. Land was for sale for only $1.25 an acre. In 1836 4.1 million acres were purchased in Michigan. The settlers usually came by boat to Detroit and then by canoe along the Huron River to Red Run Creek or they came over land by horsepower or on foot from there. The main settlement in the area that was to become Warren occurred after 1830.

Aba Warren arrives

War hero Rev Abel Warren settled in what was to become Macomb County in the summer of 1824. He had lost his farm near Covington NY. I visited his farm there later. Turns out my Stewarts and his family were from the same area. Every generation or so the land would get worn out and families would move further west on to the frontier. In 1824 when he arrived here this was the frontier. He settled north of Warren. Aba had been settled and was farming years before the first settlers arrived in Warren. He was the first reverend in the area. He was outgoing and friendly, held religious services, and presided at weddings and funerals so much that he became endeared to the Warren area settlers. They liked him so much they called the area Aba's circuit and later named Warren Township Aba Township and later Warren Township.

He is also mentioned in several other near by county history books. Settlers came from the eastern United States and from many lands.

Rule of law at last

Rule of law at last No longer did Kings dictate to us, or tribes attack us. We had rights and laws that people followed. The rule of brute force had been defeated. Settlers no longer had to fear being slaughtered for scalps or because someone wanted their land. Land was recorded. For the first time in our history we had a constitution and bill of rights. We had freedom of speech and religion. We had a say in our government. But most of all we had Peace and freedom with liberty and justice for all.

First the land was not put for sale until the survey was done and filed in 1818. Macomb County was just formed in 1818. Some troublesome

savages still had to be cleared out because they still posed a threat to settlers. It took a few years to counter the reports of the whole area being a swamp. Reports had been sent out east about the area being a big swamp and it took a few years for other more accurate reports to be spread out east. Only parts of Warren were wet lands. Potential land buyers had to come here and see that the land could be drained and check out the soil. There was no transportation to the area and no roads. Most settlers were directed to other places which had better reputations. In 1825 the Erie Canal opened and it took a few years for ships to be built.

What was on the pioneers table?
The pioneers were not lacking for meat or fish. Our area abounded in wild life. At first vegetables had to be grown and all cooking done outside. Tables were well supplied Beavers tails, wild ducks, turkeys, partridges, quails, bear-steaks, venison, whitefish, hulled corn, succotash, baked French pears. (Farmer p 338) The first settlers had few utensils. Fires had to be lighted without match or lighters and kept going around the clock. Sugar was made from maple syrup. Wild homey was occasionally discovered in the woods.

Fences had to be erected and crops for animal food planted. Later domesticated animals were brought in. Silas states "The Gazette for July 25, 1817, announced that 'during the proceeding two weeks 1,700 head of cattle were brought from Ohio.'"

Because of wolves one could not keep small livestock safely unless they were kept in a shed or barn.

Crops were Corn, wheat, oats, potatoes, rye, barley, buckwheat, beans, hay, beggas, sugar beets, tobacco, hops plus clover etc. and the garden crops.

One good turn led to another

I have heard of Indians helping the pioneers and of cooperation between them. One cold winter night an early pioneer heard a knock at his door. Because there was no law in the early years one answered his door with gun in hand. At the door was a nearly frozen Indian family that just wanted to get warm. The settler to protect his family tried to stay awake all night to keep his eyes on the Indians but towards morning he fell asleep. When he awoke the Indians were gone. He looked around to see that his family was ok. They were still sleeping peacefully and nothing was missing. When he opened the door he found that the Indians had left him a present fresh venison enough to feed his family for several days.

At times Indians and settlers helped each other. At times they fought each other. Some were proud and honest. One could not blame the Indians for distrusting the white man. After all he stole and cheated them out of their land, caused Indian groups to fight each other and disrespected Indians in general. The Europeans often hunted for sport not for food which killed off many animals. Many Americans and Europeans had massacred Indians and their wives and children.

Some Indians learned the culture of the settlers and lived in peace. Their reward was to be killed, starved or evicted from the very land that was promised them.

There were no stores or fast food places and no neighbors. They had to make everything they needed themselves. Oh and let's not forget the ever present mosquitoes. They were everywhere at all times. most pioneers suffered a bout with malarial fever (better known as the "ague"). One slogan warned: "Don't go to Michigan, that land of ills. The word means AGUE, fever and chills." There were many other problems. Imagine being awoke by the sound of your only pig squealing and to see it being carried off by a bear. At night there was howling of the wolves outside. It just was not safe to go outside at night in the early days. Bounties were paid for wolf scalps. The counties paid a lot of money for them.

Imagine for a moment being left completely on your own in a forest wilderness with no: insect repellent, no water, no pop, no food, house or shelter no super markets, no showers no electrical power, no appliances, no telephone, no power saws, no gas heat, no running waters no cars, tractors or trucks, no machines, no radios, TV or entertainment, no canned foods, pop, beer, no paper products, no bottled milk, or other packaged foods, no street lights or even streets, no police, no coffee, no credit cards, no job, no ready made bread, no toilets no toilet paper or wards catalog. The courageous pioneers did hard work to fell the trees drain wet areas, construct log cabins, and till the land.

The Indians had held the power in the Northwest Territory but the Americans settlers and armies kept coming. They defeated the American armies several times until "Mad" Anthony Wayne took over. He was appointed by President George Washington as commander of the United States Army of the Northwest in 1792 with the purpose of defending American settlers from Indian attack. Wayne won against the Indians in 1794. But there is a lot more to it. Do a Google search on Little Turtle.

The Indian chiefs realized that the Americans outnumbered them and out armed them and they could not stop the Americans from coming in. After several months of talks a big feast was thrown at Fort Greene Ville in Ohio. The Indians were given fire water, $20,000 in goods and promised $9,500 more a year in exchange for giving up most of their lands. They were promised that settlers would not settle any more on the Indian lands above a certain line. They signed the Treaty of Greenville. Not only did the Americans break the treaty but they cheated, killed and moved the Indians off of the land that was agreed on as belonging to the Indians. And again the Indians had to fight back at a cost of thousands lives on both sides.

Eviction of the Indians Evicted from their own land
The Indians had proven themselves to be excessively brutal cruel savages who tortured, killed and scalped even women and children and wounded captives. Then they often became a threat to settlers. They

wouldn't knock. The settler's wife busy in the cabin preparing dinner would be startled by looking up and surprise there would be standing a savage demanding to be fed or be given a gift or demanding ransom for some child they had kidnapped. They were often drunk and often killed others without apparent reason. Many settlers felt for good reason that the only good Indian was a dead Indian. Now in all fairness there were inexcusable acts of cruelty and murder performed by Europeans also but not usually to the extent of torturing people and killing women and children and taking slaves.

The government decided the Indians had to go.
Outnumbered, out weaponed, beaten, out educated, killed, wounded, starved, cheated, the Indians moved or were moved with cruel force further west and "civilized" man took over. Some of these peoples had settled down to farm on land given to them by treaty and land that their forefathers had lived on for centuries. They had settled down as farmers and had started schools, built roads, and were living peacefully. But an Army of 7,000 men came and forced them to march a thousand miles in the bitter winter or 1838-9 without proper food or clothing. On one such march over 4,000 men, women and children died. This was unnecessary inexcusable cruelty. This was not a time of war and these were peaceful people. Google Trail of Tears. The Supreme Court had even ruled in the Indians favor and Davy Crockett then a congressman had urged congress not to allow their removal, as did Chief Justice John Marshall, Daniel Webster and Henry Clay.

How can a country which was formed on the promise "...that all men are created equal, and that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, among these the right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness…" allow an Army to remove peaceful people from their homes and force them to march 1000 miles on foot in a bitter winter without proper clothing or preparation or food and water to their deaths? The word, civilized, what does that mean? Was that civilized behavior. If they could do that then can they do it now? In World War II we locked up Japanese people who had done nothing wrong. And a very scary historical observation, recently government has broken down

doors of homes without knocking, without a warrant, ransacked homes, and removed home owner's personal property. Also people have recently been held in jail without a hearing, in clear violation of the constitution and this practice is being allowed to continue. And they did not compensate homeowners for the losses. So you should ask can it happen here.

Rule by law at last
After about 1818 we started to have rule by law in the area. Constables were appointed. People accused were able to get a fair trial. James Fulton served as the first Macomb County sheriff from 1818-1822.

Soon the constitution was the chief law of the land that "establish justice insure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense" that kept the promise of the Declaration of Independence of "liberty and justice for all" and "secured the blessings of liberty" was in effect. Courts were established. Laws were enforced.

Aba Warren earliest close settler
Abel and Sarah Warren Pioneers (Thanks to Brandon and Challis Warren) Abel Warren was a pioneer Christian circuit preacher and war hero who became particularly beloved to the early pioneers and was held in very high esteem so much so that the area near the future village of Warren was called Abe's circuit or Warren's circuit. The area was later named Aba Township and on March 26, 1839 it was renamed Warren Township.

"I have fought a good fight. I have finished my course. I have kept the faith." Thus reads the stone of the pioneer Christian preacher and war hero who married more of Warren's pioneers and spoke at more of their burials than any other person. He was Rev Abel Warren born August 3, 1789 and died Sept 5, 1862. His great grandfather came across on the Mayflower. His Grandfather Gideon Warren was a Lieutenant in the French and Indian Wars, joining in 1748. "He was one of Ethan Allen's Green Mountain Boys" in Vermont. He became a Colonel of the 5th

Vermont Regiment in the Revolutionary War. He was wounded in the battle of Ticonderoga.

Abel Warren enlisted and served his country as a soldier in 1812 holding the rank of Sergeant. He was seriously wounded and taken prisoner at the battle of Queens town Heights. Having near death experiences in the war and as a British prisoner made him aware of the value of life. He became a Christian in 1817 and joined the Methodist church. In 1824 he and his wife Sarah became some of the first pioneers in Macomb County settling north of Warren. He became a deacon and later an elder in the church and was the first man to preach in Macomb County, and "no doubt preached at more funerals and married more couples than any other man in the county of Macomb, as when well he was always ready at a moment's call for either, frequently leaving the hayfield and going ten or fifteen miles to attend a funeral", on foot as horses in those days were very scarce and roads had not been cut and one could get seriously hurt just riding a horse on trails. "As a pioneer local preacher, he was abundant in labors, traveling on foot at times twenty-four miles on the Sabbath and preaching three times, and that after a hard week's work on the farm, and preaching as regularly as any stationed, preacher, and spending most of the winters in special revival work, in Macomb, St Clair and Oakland Counties, in which hundreds were converted, thus helping to lay the basis on which rests the magnificent, moral and social superstructure of this beautiful region of country." "He was genial and sympathetic, could weep with those that wept, or rejoice and smile with the cheerful and happy, and thus was a welcome guest, either at the wedding festival, and the sick-bed or funeral obsequies. He had nine children, four sons and five daughters." Two of his sons entered the ministry a third has an important position in the church. Abel Warren had settled in Macomb County even before Warren Township was settled. The area was all wilderness and abounded in wildlife. While pausing in the woods for a moment of prayer and some local wolves started howling so he held prayer meeting with them. "One Sabbath evening, while passing through the woods over an Indian trail, he saw just ahead of him a huge bear. The animal seemed inclined to dispute the right of way; without apparent fear, the

traveler picked up a stick, saying, ‘If you be good, I will, but otherwise we will try titles.’ The bear stepped aside and the Elder pushed forward on his journey.” From the History of Macomb County. Leeson 1882 p 739.

“The first or second sermon ever delivered in Lapeer County was preached by 'old Father Abel Warren,' as he was familiarly called. Mr. Warren belonged to the M. E. Church and was the pioneer preacher of a large track of wilderness, embracing this and several adjoining counties. He must have been a man of many sterling qualities of brain and heart, judging from the success of his heroic labors and the affectionate remembrance in which he is still held by the surviving pioneers.” History of Lapeer County p 33.

“Rev Abel Warren, of precious memory, was the first minister to find his way to this town, and probably preached the first sermon in town. For several years did this noble veteran of the cross visit the people of the town from his home some twenty miles away in the town of Washington. It is safe to say that no minister since that time has had the love and esteem of this people more than did this faithful and devoted man. In the year 1855 he was preacher in charge on the circuit, which was nearly the last of his ministerial labors. He has long since passed to his reward, and his memory is precious with those who knew him.” History of Lapeer County p 101.

Historian George Fuller in his book Historic Michigan states that Rev Abel Warren settled in Shelby in the summer of 1824 and lived there for thirty nine years. “Being a local preacher, he made his own appointments, and was at liberty to respond to any call he might receive, where the people desired his services, and such was the demand for them that there was hardly a settlement in eastern Michigan where he was not called at times to preach, either on the Sabbath, or at the funeral of some departed friend. I doubt that if there has ever been another minister in Michigan so universally respected and beloved by all classes, and people of all creeds, as was Abel Warren, during the thirty-nine years of his life work in Michigan.” He was the first man

licensed to preach in the State of Michigan. History of Macomb County Leeson 1882.

Rev Abel Warren was a circuit rider who traveled around Macomb County preaching the story of Jesus, marrying many pioneers, speaking at many pioneer funerals and helping to start several churches. He became known as Elder Warren. His warm personality made him many friends. He ministered to the spiritual needs of Warren's early settlers. (from Leeson's History of Macomb County-1882) It is believed he was instrumental in the formation of the first Methodist church of Warren in which his son was one of the earliest temporary pastors. (Went on to pastor other churches) This was the first church of any denomination formed in Warren. The circuit riding or walking pastor met with pioneers in their lonely cabins and not only brought guidance in manners and morals but also often news. Sometimes he may have brought books. Of course he performed marriages, spoke at funerals and baptized believers. It is no wonder he was held in very high esteem by the early pioneers.

Aba Township

There are two prevalent patterns for naming towns. The least prevalent was to pick them out of a list of revolutionary War Heroes. In our case General Joseph Warren who never set foot in our town and died 60 years prior. The other much more prevalent and popular pattern for naming towns was to name them after a local hero, famous resident or local popular or powerful person. Just looking at Macomb County Bruce Township was named after Robert Bruce a local resident. Orange Township after the large number of Irishmen who settled there. Sterling Township was named after a local resident as were many other townships. Mt Clemens was named after Christian Clemens, Gratiot Avenue after the man who built the road. Countless street names were named after local residents. (far more than after presidents). The same is true for local schools, libraries and parks. What we are saying here is that far more things were named after local residents and heroes than after national ones. Since Warren was first named Aba the local nickname for Abel Warren and in a short time more formalized to

Warren. We think along with historian Harold Stilwell that the founding committee chose Abel Warren the most famous and popular man at that time as the best person to honor by naming their township after him. They were poor farmers many of which did not even read, who did not own books, did not have a library and probably did not know about Joseph Warren.

Several historians feel that Warren was named after this well traveled popular and well loved local friend, “Aba” Warren His nickname.

Abel Warren was well loved and spoken very well of in several historical references. He preached about Jesus in many places around Macomb County and Warren. Barns sometimes had to be used as there were no other buildings big enough where people could meet. He may have performed more marriages than any other local pioneer preacher. His certificates read "By me (signed) Abel Warren Minister of the Gospel". **He spoke at more funerals, he educated people, possibly educated children in the winters and according to several histories was very beloved by local Warren pioneer residents.**

Historian Wesley Arnold located some of his descendants and they feel that since he was so well respected in the area and that family legends are such that it is very likely that the citizens wanted to honor him by naming the township after him. First by calling it Aba’s (Many of the pioneers spoke different languages and Aba was his nickname and a shortened version of Abs’s circuit) then later by calling it Warren’s circuit which got shortened to Warren.

Over a hundred years later the Warren City council acting without the above knowledge voted to name The City of Warren after a name picked off of a revolutionary list of heroes, Joseph Warren who never set foot in our area and was not even known to our pioneers who lived here. Joseph Warren . was born in Roxbury, Mass. 11 June, 1741; died in Charlestown, Mass., 17 June, 1775 had died 64 years earlier in the battle of The Battle of Bunker Hill in the United States Revolutionary War for Independence. He was chosen as president Provincial congress,

and thus became chief executive officer of Massachusetts under this provisional government. On 14 June he was chosen second major-general of tile Massachusetts forces. On the 16th he presided over the Provincial congress. The next day upon hearing that the British troops had landed at Charlestown, he rode over to Bunker Hill. As he was rallying the militia, he was struck in the head by a musket-ball and instantly killed.

But our local Abel was not only a war hero but also actually helped our pioneers, presided at Warren weddings and Funerals and lived north of Warren. He settled here years before our settlers and helped them with local survival knowledge and cabin raisings, education for their children, community meetings, **He performed more weddings and Officiated at more funerals than anyone else, endearing himself as a local brother, helper and hero to our Warren pioneers**. (Much of this is stated in several old histories.)

We must learn from history, be informed, observant and prepared.

The next book lists the early settlers and those who followed.